

The family intermarries with Mayūrbhanj, Bāmra, Kalāhandi, Bastar and Baud. The emblem of the family is the *chakra* (quoit).

The population of the State in 1901 numbered 277,748, THE PEOPLE. composed chiefly of the agricultural classes. The most common Hindu castes are Brāhmans, Mahāntis, Rājputs, Agariās, and Kaltuyās (or Kolthās). The aboriginal tribes are the Gonds, Khonds and Binjhāls (Binjhwārs). The population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 113,110; females, 115,985; total 229,095, i.e. 82·5 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Hindu population is 49·4 per cent. Musalmāns—males, 296; females, 216; total, 512, i.e., 0·18 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Musalmān population is 57·8 per cent. Animists—males, 22,991; females, 24,976; total 47,967, i.e., 17·3 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Animist population is 47·9 per cent. Christians—males, 71; females, 71; total 142. Jains—males, 20; females, 12; total 32. The number of persons able to read and write is 5,142 or 1·9 per cent. of the total population. The State contains 1,850 villages which may be classified as follows:—1,773 villages with less than 500 inhabitants; 69 with from 500 to 1,000 inhabitants; 7 with from 1,000 to 2,000 inhabitants and 1 with from 2,000 to 5,000 inhabitants. Averages—villages per square mile, 0·77; persons per village, 150; houses per village, 29·5; houses per square mile, 22·7; persons per house, 5·09. The density of population is 116 persons per square mile.

Of the earliest inhabitants of Patnā the aboriginal tribes of Binjhāls (who are said to have come from the Nilgiris in Madras) and of Savars, appear to be the oldest and to have preceded the Khonds. The original home of the Khonds is said to have been in the hill tracts of Baud and Kimedi, and the order in which the successive Khond tribes travelled east and northward and the chief places they traversed on their route through the north-east of Kalāhandi in their migration towards Patnā are still mentioned in their ancient lore. The first immigration of the Khonds into Patnā is said to have occurred during the period of the Gangabansī Rājās, and to have continued late into the period of the Chauhan family. And the fact that some of the present leading Khond families in Patnā still intermarry in Baud and in the tracts said to have been traversed by the Khonds in the course of their movement eastwards, gives colour to their version of the events connected with their early immigration. The Khonds now found in the Patnā State have assimilated themselves in many ways to their Hindu brethren. They have taken largely

to regular cultivation though at the same time they continue like all the people of these parts to practise *dāhi* cultivation. They have adopted the Oriyā language and do not take water from or intermarry with their wilder brethren living in the hill tracts of Kālahandi and the neighbouring regions.

MISSION. The Baptist Missionary Society has a sub-station at Loisinghā: the mission was started in 1893. The mission in 1907 had one assistant missionary and one evangelist at work: the mission employs 12 school-masters in charge of day and Sunday schools and the number of scholars attending in 1907 was 234: the total Christian community of the mission numbers 1,371 souls with 350 church members: the work at present is almost entirely confined to the Gandā caste

PUBLIC HEALTH. The country in the cultivated area is healthy and the people suffer as a rule from only the ordinary ailments. The forest tracts are feverish and malarial fever is common: the original settlers, however, are sturdy and robust and fever makes no great inroads upon them. The old headquarters of the State at Pātnāgarh are notoriously unhealthy, but this is due to the presence of a large number of abandoned tanks, which are stagnant and with no drainage. There is a fine dispensary at headquarters with excellent accommodation for males and females and a separate ward for low caste patients. The institution is in charge of an Assistant Surgeon and Civil Hospital Assistant and is well found with surgical instruments and medicines: in 1907-08 the number of patients treated was 25,819 and the daily average attendance was 144·8. The State is subject to periodical visitations of cholera. Of late years small-pox has been almost unknown in the State: this has been due to the energetic and universal system of vaccination and re-vaccination practised in the State: vaccination is entirely free and is supervised by an Inspector: in 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 11,932 and of re-vaccinations, 21,045.

AGRI- CULTURE. The best cultivation of the State is found in the northern portion of the State, part of the Agalpur zamindāri, and to the east and west of the main road from the Sambalpur district: from Bolāngir, the headquarters, southwards the country is largely broken by undulating forest land, for the most part unsuitable for cultivation, but here and there in this tract considerable areas of very fertile lands and prosperous villages are met with. The principal crop is rice: oil-seeds, pulses, sugarcane and cotton are, however, grown to a considerable extent and very rich crops of *til* (*sesamum*) are raised. In many villages good tanks and embankments exist: the fields are terraced and the country readily lends

itself to irrigation. The cultivation practised is, however, not of a high order and the wasteful system of *dāhi* or *jhuming* is practised to a considerable extent. There is no experimental farm in the State and nothing has been done to introduce new crops or improve the quality of seed grain. The soils are classified as follows:—(1) *Khalā*.—Hard white clay, sometimes mixed with lime concrete. It varies as follows:—(a) *Chāndi khaliā*.—White in colour and very hard. (b) *Gut khaliā*.—A white, hard and saline clay. (c) *Gengti khaliā*.—White and hard, mixed with lime-stone. (d) Ordinary *khaliā*.—Or agricultural clay. (2) *Bahā*.—Sandy soil. If it is mixed with clay it is called *pandakāpithā*. It is a good rice soil. (3) *Badmattā* or *kanhār*.—Black cotton soil. In the *Khondā* tracts (the southern area of the State inhabited mostly by the Khonds) it is called *malawā*. (4) *Pankūā* or *kachharā*.—Low lying land on the banks of rivers. (5) *Rugudā*.—Gritty soil.

Kind
of soil.

The classification of the land for assessment is as follows:—(1) *At*.—The high land which is dependent entirely on the rainfall for its moisture. (2) *Māl*.—Embanked land lying high on a slope. (3) *Bernā*.—Land lying along the main surface drainage and embanked. (4) *Bāhāl*.—The low lying land on the main surface drainage and embanked. When these four classes of land are situated beneath a tank they are known as irrigated *at*, *māl*, *bernā* and *bāhāl*. (5) *Khārī*.—Manured land round the village site, and which receives the village drainage. (6) *Barchhā*.—Sugarcane land. These plots are generally prepared on *at* or *māl* lands, and are irrigated from wells. The plot is alternately sown with cane and pulses or wheat occasionally. (7) *Hārī*.—Plots attached to the house and fenced in.

Land
classification.

The various kinds of rice, pulses, oil-seeds and vegetables grown in the State are:—(1) *At dhān*, of which the following varieties are grown:—(1) *Sitābhog*, (2) *Pandernuākhāi*, (3) *Bludoshingeri*, (4) *Satkā*, (5) *Sariā*, (6) *Sankrā*, (7) *Dhobh* or *chaulimenjo*, (8) *Kalechi*, (9) *Palsāphul*, (10) *Kurāphul*, (11) *Sukunāthātā* and (12) *Rānī* or *Lakshmīkajāl*. These ripen in the months of Bhādrabā and Dasharā (September). (2) *Māl dhān* the varieties grown being, (1) *Badkusma*, (2) *Karnī*, (3) *Hiranjhūtri*, (4) *Dāhikharkuili*, (5) *Sāntento*, (6) *Mālpāthri*, (7) *Tāmbāi*, (8) *Dāhipudina*, (9) *Dāhichūtri*, (10) *Jhuler*, (11) *Kankriā*, (12) *Sankseri* and (13) *Bramani*. These ripen between Dasharā and Kārttik (October). (3) *Bernā dhān*, this consists of the following varieties:—(1) *Dudhkhadikā*, (2) *Kālikujī*, (3) *Bānko*, (4) *Rāisiri*, (5) *Kankriā*, (6) *Phuler* and (7) *Suāthuntī*. These ripen in the month of Kartik (November). (4) *Bāhāl dhān*, there are

Rice.

27 varieties known in the State, viz:—(1) *Bātrāj*, (2) *Baidyārāj*, (3) *Patkri*, (4) *Ruknibhog*, (5) *Raghusāi*, (6) *Goindi*, (7) *Rājgoindi*, (8) *Makarkām*, (9) *Nuniāpān*, (10) *Mahārājī*, (11) *Chināmāl*, (12) *Jhikparāgi*, (13) *Sunāpān*, (14) *Samudrabākī*, (15) *Krishnakalā*, (16) *Rādhāballav*, (17) *Tulsikanthi*, (18) *Ratanchuri*, (19) *Hundā*, (20) *Sagardhuli*, (21) *Matā*, (22) *Jalchingri*, (23) *Tentulā*, (24) *Badkhar-kuli*, (25) *Haldigundi*, (26) *Charāiguri* and (27) *Agmāchhi*. These ripen in the month of December. The four kinds of paddy (rice) represent 58 per cent. of the total cropped area of the State. The paddy is mostly sown broadcast, and the sowings are known as (a) *Kharādī* which takes place before the break of the monsoon; (b) *Batri*, just after the rains have broken; (c) *Achkrā* or *garā*, this is the latest sowing. The seed which has previously been steeped in water and germinated, is sown broadcast. When the paddy sown broadcast is about six inches high, the land is again ploughed, this operation is known as *bihudā*. A certain quantity of *dhān* is also grown from transplanted seedlings.

Cereals. (5) Inferior kinds of cereals (millets) consisting of (1) *Gulji*, (2) *Jhāri*, (3) *Kodo*, (4) *Māndiā*, (5) *Kāngo*, (6) *Jowār* and (7) *Makai*. These cover 4 per cent. of the cropped area and ripen in August and September.

Pulses. (6) (1) *Birhi*, (2) *Kulthi*, both sown in August and September, and ripen in December; (3) *Māga*, sown a little later than the sowing of *birhi* and *kulthi* and ripens in December; (4) *Arhar*, sown in June, and ripens in February; (5) *Gram*, this crop is sown very sparingly (it is sown in September), and ripens in February.

Cotton. (7) Cotton covers $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cropped area, and is sown in June and ripens in December.

These crops, numbers 5 to 7, cover 12 per cent. of the cropped area.

Oil-seeds. (8) (1) *Til* (Sesamum) sown in July, and ripens in December; (2) *Castor* oil-seed sown in September, and ripens in March. These two crops cover 21 per cent. of the cropped area.

Sugarcane. (9) Sugarcane is but little grown in this State. It occupies only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cropped area.

Vegetables. (10) (1) *Bhendi*, (2) *Saru* (aroideal), (3) *Kakudi* (cucumber), (4) *Kakhāru* (pumpkin), (5) *Barbati* (cow-gram), (6) *Janhi* (*Luffa acutangula*), (7) *Lau* (bottle gourd), (8) *Baigun* (brinjal); these ripen in autumn: (9) *Semi* (beans), (10) *Kandamul* (sweet potato), (11) *Onion*, (12) *Garlic*, (13) *Chillies*, (14) *Dhaniā* (coriander-seed) and (15) *Bhājisag* (potherbs); these ripen in winter. Vegetables are few in number and cover only about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole cropped area and are sown in the gardens of the houses.

The State is liable to famine, of which the most disastrous on NATURAL record is that of 1900. The southern and western areas of the State are especially liable to suffer on any untimely distribution or early cessation of the rains : these tracts are inhabited for the most part by aboriginals, the Khonds to the south in the Kondhan and the Binjhāls to the west, in the area known as Binjhāly. These aboriginal races are very indifferent cultivators and make no attempt to secure regular crops by constructing irrigation dams and reservoirs. Even in ordinary years they are extremely indifferent to their cultivation preferring to live very largely on forest products of fruits and roots and the pursuit of the chase. The northern and eastern area of the State is however fairly protected from any entire failure of the crops : the people of this part are skilled agriculturists and most of the villages possess dams and tanks for irrigation. The greater degree of protection enjoyed by the north-eastern area was markedly shown in the famine of 1900, when, though there was practically a cessation of the rains from August, the people of this part were able by irrigation to harvest a 65 per cent. crop and the Khonds and Binjhāls to the south and south-east only harvested a 30 per cent. crop. The great factor is the even distribution of the rainfall : in 1896 the rainfall 54·65 inches was in excess of the average, but there was a prolonged cessation after the sowings with the result that the rice did not germinate properly. In the following year 1897 there was considerable scarcity in the State, but no actual famine amongst the people of the State. There was however acute distress in some of the neighbouring States and a large influx of people in search of work invaded the State. Relief works were accordingly opened at the headquarters and private enterprise amongst the rich cultivators provided work for others by embanking fields and improving tanks. The State was however visited in this year (1897) by a very severe outbreak of cholera, which raged with great virulence, especially amongst the refugees who had fled to the State for employment and subsistence.

In 1899-1900 the rainfall was 7 inches below the average, but would readily have sufficed for the crops, but for its unfavourable distribution. Over 5 inches fell between March and May and was very useful for preparing the lands for the coming rice crop. The rains were favourable to the end of July, when they came practically to a cessation, except for a small fall in the early part of August, with a few scanty falls to the middle of September, when the rains ceased entirely. The crops yielded a 65 per cent harvest in the northern and eastern areas of the

State and 80 per cent. in the south and west : in the latter areas affairs were partially improved by the fact that the Khonds and Binjhāls had reaped good millet crops of Gulji, Māndiā and Sawā. By the end of September prices of food grains had risen largely and people began to wander over the State in panic, there being no reserve of stocks at command. In the middle of August rice was selling at 24 seers per rupee, but in September had risen to 20 seers and continued rising steadily to November : for the next three months prices remained stationary, but from February onwards again rose rapidly, reaching in July 5 seers per rupee. The position was rendered the more difficult by the almost entire absence of any reserve stocks : the year 1896-97 had been one of shortage and though the two succeeding years were good the people had sold off their surplus to make good their needs of former years : communications were defective and when the rainy season set in it was almost impossible to import rice except at prohibitive rates : the famine relief kitchens were kept supplied with great difficulty by importing from Kharagpur. A considerable import of *māndiā* however was obtainable from Ganjām and all classes alike were compelled to subsist on this to a great extent. The *mahuā* crop, which is of enormous value, especially to the aboriginal races, who form 33 per cent. of the population, was a failure, but the mango crop was fortunately a bumper one. A test work was opened soon after the close of the monsoon, but did not attract workers. It was not till March that people regularly came to the relief works, all of which took the form of tank excavations : the rate paid was a moderate one, Re. 0-3-2 per 100 cubic feet and was raised to Re. 0-4-9 with the rise in prices. Besides State relief works others were opened by private enterprise and much assistance was thus rendered. One of the great difficulties to cope with was rendering relief to the aboriginal races whom nothing would induce to take to regular spade and pick work. Kitchens, seventeen in number, were accordingly opened, the largest number of persons relieved on any one day at the kitchens being 6,980. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund gave Rs. 10,000, which was expended on providing seed grains, Rs. 6,505 were given as *taccavi*, Rs. 3,210 land revenue, and Rs. 2,500 forest revenue were suspended and Rs. 21,094 were spent on State kitchens and relief works, excluding the sums spent by the zamindārs and private persons. The next difficulty which faced the State authorities was the greatly restricted area sown in the ensuing year 1901. In March of that year distress again developed in the Kondhan and Binjhāly : accordingly Rs. 8,833 land revenue were suspended, Rs. 14,676 were given as *taccavi* and kitchens were kept open from April

to September in these areas : the taccavi was given on the spot and at the right time and by the year 1902 the area sown had reached the normal. In the year 1903 it was found necessary to remit Rs 2,398 of land revenue and Rs. 9,000 were again given out en taccavi in the Kondhan and Binjhāly areas : the result was the rapid restoration to normal conditions in those parts. This disastrous famine was attended by a serious outbreak of crime : grain shops were looted and dacoity broke out and it was necessary for Government to depute a Police Inspector to organise the police force of the State. Small-pox and cholera raged with terrible virulence during the famine year of 1900 : the deteriorated condition of the people rendered them ready victims to these diseases : the registered number of deaths in 1900 was 42,154 against 8,022 in the preceding year, giving an average ratio of 127 per mille per annum : the birth rate fell from 15,353 in 1899 to 8,233 in 1900, and the total population showed a decline of 16 per cent. The mortality amongst cattle was very high from rinderpest and foot and mouth disease : water was scarce and the extensive grazing lands were parched : the greatest mortality however ensued after the break of the rains when the half starved animals were allowed to feed to repletion on the new and abundant vegetation : the Gandas and Doms slaughtered a large number of cattle for food and crime of this type was rife. Measures have now been taken to be properly prepared for famine : schemes of famine works have been decided upon and an expert Surveyor has been engaged to draw up the plans and estimate for immediate use when necessary : several of these are preventive works which will be gradually taken up. The Chief has started a special famine fund as a reserve. The Patna State not being traversed by any large river is not subject to disastrous floods.

The average rates of assessment per acre for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class rice lands are Re. 0-10-9, Re. 0-9-7 and Re. 0-3-7 respectively ; the assessment is thus very light ; for *at* or uplands, the average rate is Re. 0-1-9 per acre. The rate of assessment for *barchhā* land, where sugarcane is specially grown, varies from Re. 1-4 to Rs. 3-12 per acre.

The field labourers are here called *guti* or *hulia* and are generally hired for the year. They get for food two to three *khandis* (1 maund to 1 maund 20 seers) of unhusked rice per mensem. At the end of the year, they also receive six to twelve *khandis* (3 maunds to 6 maunds) of *dhān* (unhusked rice) with two cloths worth about 12 annas. Where sugarcane is cultivated, the sugarcane grown on one *patti* is allowed to every *guti* ; the

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

value of this is about Rs. 2. Likewise one *khandi* (20 seers) of *dhān* (unhusked rice) yielding about a *purug* (4 maunds) of unhusked rice and one *tāmbi* (1 seer 4 chitacks) of pulse and *ti* (sesamum) are sown for each *guti*, who is also given grain at the time of harvest for the work of threshing at the following rates:—For *dhān*, 10 *tāmbis* (10 seers) if he thrashes 20 *khandis* (10 maunds). For pulse and other crops, only as much as he requires for one day's food. The more skilful labourer or head *guti* (*khamāri*) gets 16 *khandis* (8 maunds) instead of 12 in a lump at the end of a year and enjoys other privileges. A stipulation is often made that the *guti* is to be lent from Rs. 4 to Rs. 20 a year without interest, provided he does not throw up his situation until he repays the money. This loan is termed in this State as “*Bahābandhā*”

The lads employed for grazing cattle or other cultivating business are called *kuthid*. They are supplied with food and cloths, and at the end of the year *dhān* (unhusked rice) from four to eight *khandis* (2 to 4 maunds) is given to them.

Besides, daily labourers are often hired in gangs to work in the fields for weeding, sowing and ploughing at two *tāmbis* (2 seers) and for transplanting at 3 *tāmbis* (3 seers) of unhusked rice daily per head. These labourers are called Bhutiārs. In the *Khondān* tracts the Khonds hire labourers at a low rate giving them requisite food in their houses and paying them a lump sum of Rs. 4 in cash in the year and three pieces of cloth only. During late years the average rate of daily wages of ordinary coolies was 2 annas for males and 1 anna and 3 pies for females: and the average rate of daily wages of mechanics was: superior mason, 14 annas, common mason, 8 annas; superior carpenter, Re. 1, common carpenter, 10 annas; superior blacksmith, 10 annas, common blacksmith, 6 annas. The principal food grain of the State is rice and *māga* is the principal kind of pulse in use. During the period of 12 years from 1896 to 1907 the average price of rice per rupee was 24 $\frac{1}{8}$ seers at harvest time and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers during the later part of the year: the average price of salt from 1896 to 1905 was nine seers per rupee, but since 1906 it has fallen to 14 seers per rupee: the average price of *māga* has been 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee, of *kutāi*, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers and of *ārāi*, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers.

OCCU-
PATIONS,
MANU-
FACTURES
AND
TRADE.

The occupation of the people of the State is mostly agricultural, 57 per cent. of the total population being agriculturists and 13 per cent. field labourers. A small number of people live on the income derived by smelting iron and making iron instruments. There is no manufacture in the State worth notice;

weaving of *dhuris*, *newar*, etc., with the fly-shuttle loom is largely carried on in the State jail: Bhulias, Gandās and Maharās or Kulees, who are the principal weaving classes in the State, supply the ordinary cloth used by the people of the State. Iron weapons such as axes, daggers, etc., of good quality are manufactured in the Bangomundā samindāri of this State. The principal exported articles are rāshi (sesamum seed), fibres, cotton, rice, grain, pulses and *ghi* (clarified butter). Traders from Ganjām and Raipur come to the State to barter salt, dry fish, coconuts, tobacco, *nabāt* (raw sugar) and iron bars mainly for oil-seeds and rice. The other imported articles are spices, mill cloths, thread and kerosene oil.

There are two excellent murramed (gravelled) and bridged roads in the State: one from the border of the State, at Salebhattā on the Ang, to Bolāngir, the headquarters, a distance of 19 miles; the other from Bolāngir to Tarbhā, a large mart on the Sonpur border: a portion of the main road from Raipur to Vizianagram runs through the south-western extremity of the State for a few miles, passing near Sindhekela. An unbridged surface road 34 miles in length, runs due south to the Tel river, the boundary of the Kālāhandi and Patnā States, starting from Bolāngir and forms the main line of communication from Sambalpur to the headquarters of the Kālāhandi State: there are rest-houses at Salebhattā and Deogaon on this route. There is a good surface road from Bolāngir to Patnāgarh, the former headquarters of the State: a cold weather surface road with rough wooden trestle bridges runs from Bangomundā through the forest tracts on the west of the State to Agalpur. The State is thus provided with good communications and there are several fair village tracks. The new line of rail from Raipur to Vizianagram will pass through the southern portion of the State *via* Sindhekela and Saintalā, on the main road from Bolāngir to Kālāhandi: a branch line is projected from Saintalā to Sonpur passing near Bolāngir. The Public Works of the State have been placed by the Chief under the charge of the Agency Executive Engineer, Sambalpur, with an Overseer in direct charge: the State has of recent years made great progress in the opening out of communications. There is a circuit house at headquarters. The State has been relieved of all contributions for postal service and there is a daily service both ways between Bolāngir and Sambalpur; beside the post office at headquarters, there are letter-boxes at the school houses of all important villages.

The main subdivisions of the State are—(1) The *khalsa* or directly administered country and two estates held by relations

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

of the Mahārājā, viz., Jarāsinghā and Agalpur. (2) Five hereditary estates held chiefly by Gond Thākurs, viz., Atgaon, Loisinghā, Pandrāni, Bālbukā, and Mandal. (3) Five *Binjir* estates held by Binjhāl chiefs—a warlike race of aborigines—viz., Rāmud, Nāndupalā, Bhānpur, Khaprākhol, and Khuripāni. (4) Five *garhatāhis*, or clusters of villages, the revenue of which are set apart for the maintenance of bodies of police each under a *garhatā*. (5) Nine Khond *Mahāls*, viz., Bangomundā, Budbudkā, Luwā, Haldi, Talgahakā, Lāpher Pāhār, Saintalā, Tupā, and Upargahakā.

The system of settlement prevailing before 1871 A.D. was to lease the villages to the highest bidder. The term of lease was 4 years. There was no certainty of tenure however. The ryots had no rights in the land, and could be ejected at the will of and by the *gaontā* though owing to the paucity of the tenants this was rarely done. The rents generally continued the same from one lease to another, but the *nazarāna* (or premium) paid by the *gaontā* on renewal was increased. The village assessment or *mālguzārī* was distributed by the *gaontā* and the tenants over the tenants' (ryoti) lands. For this purpose the tenants' lands were divided into a definite number of divisions locally, called *karia* representing 16 annas, *bhaguā* representing 8 annas, *bahā*, *gur* or *sahtā* representing 4 annas, *nahtā* 2 annas and *lita* 1 anna.

These divisions took into consideration the position and produce, and were therefore not of the same size. They existed everywhere, and it was not difficult to apportion the rents when they had to be revised. The *nazarāna* paid by the *gaontā* was recovered in part from the tenants according to their holdings. The *gaontā* managed to enjoy the rents of such lands as were temporarily deserted or new lands broken up and settled. He enjoyed all his *bhogrā*, service lands, free in return for the *nazarāna* paid by him. The tenant did not know how much was legally payable by him, but had to take the word of the *gaontā* for it and the *gaontā* could thus collect more than he paid to the Chief for *karchān* or payment in kind from his ryots, this being another source of profit to him. In addition a large number of miscellaneous cesses had to be paid. For every 15 or 30 villages a *tandakār* was appointed whose business was supposed to be to keep the peace in these villages. He, however, made a regular source of profit out of all the crimes of the area.

On the occasion of a marriage in the Chief's family a contribution called *haidān pati* was levied on all the villages, to cover the expenses of the marriage. Contributions seem also to have

been levied for the purchase of horses and elephants and, on visits of ceremony. As money was required for expenses, the Chiefs issued orders from time to time in writing upon *gaontias* to pay the bearer a certain sum. The order was complied with and the paper kept as a voucher to support the payment.

The total collections on account of land revenue and cesses just before the beginning of the British administration amounted to (a) land revenue, Rs. 5,792, (b) cash cesses and dues, Rs. 1,479 and (c) payments in kind, consisting of rice, urid, *ghī* (clarified butter), oil, goats and cloth.

The tenant lent to his *gaontia* the services of all his ploughs for work for a day and 2 labourers with sickles for a day. This practice continues now. When the *gaontias* sent their *karchaul* (payment of rice in kind) to the Chief the cartmen were detained for a day or two to bring firewood, timber and grass for the use of the Chief, the annual repairs of his houses and those of his servants. The tenants were bound to do any other *begar* (free labour) required of them.

When the State came under British administration in 1871 a new settlement was made. There was a summary enquiry and leases were given to the *gaontias* and *kabuliyats* taken from them. The cesses were abolished and the demands amalgamated with the rent. The instalments continued the same as before, viz, payable on *Asādh Pūrnimā* (15th July), *Kārttik Pūrnimā* (15th November), and *Fāgun Pūrnimā* (15th March). For instance a village which had to pay Rs. 207-3 revenue and 40½ *pastmās* (97¼ maunds) of rice under the old lease beside *ghī*, (clarified butter), oil, a goat, etc., under the lease of 1871 was assessed at Rs. 400 without any payment in kind. This settlement was made for 5 years from 1871 to 1875. In 1872 a school cess was imposed. Under the new settlement the total demand was Rs. 22,200 land revenue and Rs. 1,471 school cess. The land revenue and the rental demand continued to be identical, the *gaontia* enjoying his *bhogrā* lands rent-free and appropriating the rents of the new tenants or new lands. The total demand included payments from zamindārs.

The rent settlement made in 1876 was also for 5 years and was also a summary one. Captain Bowie, Deputy Commissioner, Sambālpur, who made the former settlement, had however now obtained a fuller knowledge of the people and the country. This settlement was, therefore, made on fuller data. It had been found in the *Kondhān* (tracts held by the *Khonds*) that cultivation had at least doubled everywhere, that the *umrāhs* (*Khond chiefs*) and heads of villages had been obtaining more than double their

former revenue from the tenants. In the northern part of the State the case of each village was considered separately and separate information had been collected with regard to each village. The total demand rose to Rs. 37,398 and Rs. 2,190 school cess.

In this settlement as before the *gaontia*s and the tenants were left to themselves to apportion the increased demand in the same way that they would have done if the enhancement had been levied in the old form of a demand made in the shape of *nazarāna*.

Settlement
of 1885.

A fresh settlement was made in 1885 by Mr. Berry and the question of the *nazarāna* and *chhirol* lands were dealt with. The lump payment of *nazarāna* had become a hardship to the *gaontia* who was usually compelled to borrow in order to meet his obligation to the State. These objections were met by assessing the *bhogra* to an annual payment: the assessment made in no case exceeded more than one-half its rent value at rates paid by the lands of tenants. *Chhirol* lands were taken to include (a) Land newly broken up by the *gaontia* and leased to a tenant, the rent being enjoyed by the *gaontia*, (b) lands brought under cultivation by tenants and enjoyed by them rent-free for three years and subsequently paying rent to the *gaontia*, (c) land formerly ryoti, abandoned by a tenant and cultivated for a time by the *gaontia* and again leased by him. The *chhirol* lands were assessed at a lenient rate as the assessment was an innovation.

Settlement
of 1895.

The next settlement was made in 1895-96. This was made for the whole of the State except the Kondhān tract, where though the papers were ready the announcement was postponed owing to the approach of famine.

The better cultivated areas of the State, Aungār, Sarandā and Patnāgarh were regularly surveyed by plane table. In the western portion of the State called Binjhāly where there were practically only patches of cultivation in the midst of jungle, the survey was on the *masdakat* system which found the area of a field in a rough and ready manner by taking its length and average breadth. The other details of settlement were those adopted in the British districts of the Central Provinces: maps were prepared, the *khasra* was written and from it the *jumabandi*. The soil was divided according to position into *at* or high land, *mal* or high embanked land, *barua* or low land and *bakal* the lowest lying land where the water-supply was never deficient. These classes were again subdivided into manured, irrigated and ordinary. Deduced rents were then calculated by means of soil factors and unit-rates.

and the revised rents were fixed with reference to these deduced rents. The condition of the village was also taken into consideration. The system of the remuneration of the *gaontia* was changed. The *gaontias* were given a drawback of 20 per cent. and in some cases more, of the whole village assets, and the *gaontia* was supposed to assign land to the village servants for their remuneration. Tribal heads, such as *umrah*s, etc., received a remuneration in cash : the State taking from 50 per cent. to 65 per cent. of the assets : the *gaontia* paying the *umrah* 80 per cent. ; the difference between these two items representing the remuneration of the *umrah*.

The demands of the settlements of 1895-96 amounted to Rs. 76,900, as land revenue against the demand of Rs. 52,500 in 1895.

No *nazarana* or premium on leasing a village is now levied as formerly. No *begari* or *bethi* (free labour) is recognised in the *khalsa* portion of the State, but when any important officer goes on tour in the State, the tenants give one cooly per house to do any necessary State work. The *gandā* and *jhānkar* (village watchmen) cannot as formerly be ejected by a *gaontia* at his will. The *nariā* or water bearer as before enjoys rent-free land. The lands taken up by these village servants now form part of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -rent-free land (*bhogra*) allowed to the *gaontia*. There was also formerly the village *negi*. He enjoyed a plot of land rent-free and was the *gaontia*'s assistant in the village management. He helped to collect rents, receive and attend to State servants visiting the village. The *negi* has ceased to be a recognised servant. The village potter still exists in many villages and supplies pots for the *gaontia*'s use and for that of the visitors to the village in return for rent-free land. He, too, has no official recognition now. In addition to the land enjoyed by the *gandā* and *jhānkar* rent-free, they receive paddy (unhusked rice) from each tenant at harvest time.

Village
Servants.

The Loisinghā zamindāri originated out of a service grant, and assumed its present size by encroachments in former times upon the *khalsa* or area directly in possession of the Chief. Atgaon and Bangomundā are tenures of long standing. The control of the police in the zamindāris was formerly in the hands of the zamindārs, but was taken away from them in 1896. The settlements that these zamindārs make with their *gaontias* are of a summary nature for five years generally. Upon the income derived by the zamindārs, *takoli* (tribute) is assessed which is revised from time to time.

Zamin-
dāris.

Up till the settlement of 1885 the zamindars managed their own police. In the settlement of 1895 they were relieved of this duty and the charges on account of the police were recovered from them.

Mainten-
ance
grants.

The Agalpur maintenance grant was made by Mahārāja Bhūpāl Deva on his death-bed for the maintenance of his sons by his second wife. The Jarāsinghā maintenance grant has changed hands from time to time being meant for the use of the brother of the Chief, holding the *gadi*. There are *bābūān māfis* for the relations of the Raj family, *chākraṇ māfis* for servants, *debottar* and *brahmottar māfis* for temples, gods and Brāhmins. There are no grants of recent date to Brāhmins or temples.

Māfis.

In the 1895 settlement enhancements were made as required in each case and the grants to the Brāhmins were assessed to partial revenue according to the merits of each case.

General.

There used to be a *pālhi* tax levied upon professions. The Kewat, Kumbhār, Māli, Teli, Grandā, Bhuliā and Sundhi castes were assessed to that tax. It was abolished in 1890 and the *pandari* tax or tax on incomes introduced in its stead.

The main features of the rules regulating the revenue administration of the State are that a *gaontia* cannot sublet, transfer or mortgage his village. *Gaontias* of long standing, who have been in possession of the same village for 20 years or more, or who have effected real improvements in their villages, are given protected status, entitling them to the right of renewal at the next settlement. The *gaontia* cannot subdivide his *bhagra* lands, he may allow tenants to cultivate them, but no rights can be obtained in them by the tenant and all encumbrances on them cease, when a new *gaontia* obtains the village. Tenants cannot transfer their holdings by sale, lease or mortgage. The settlement prepared for the Kondhān in 1895 and which was postponed owing to famine and a series of bad harvests has been revised, brought up to date and recently announced.

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the *sanad* of 1867. The State pays a tribute of Rs 13,000, which is liable to revision and was last assessed in 1909 for 30 years. The Chief is invested with full criminal jurisdiction, except that capital sentences have to be referred to the Commissioner of the Division for confirmation. Under the *sanad* the Chief is bound to follow the advice of the officer duly invested with authority by Government. No import or export duties can be levied and the Chief is bound to conduct his excise administration so as not to interfere with the excise arrangements of the neighbouring districts of British

India. The Chief conducts the administration of the State with the assistance of a *Diwan*. The State for various causes has from time to time come under the administration of Government and the administration has been developed in all departments. The *Diwan* is the chief executive officer of the State with powers equivalent to those of a Deputy Commissioner and also exercises the powers of a Sessions and District Judge : appeals from his orders lie to the Chief : the *Diwan* hears appeals from subordinate officers. There is a *Tahsildar* and *Naib Tahsildar*, revenue officers, exercising also judicial powers : the Chief's eldest son exercises powers of a District Magistrate and there is also an Honorary Magistrate at headquarters : certain of the zamindars also exercise the powers of Honorary Magistrates. There is a Settlement Officer and a complete settlement staff : the settlement records are kept up to date on the system followed in the Central Provinces. The income of the State in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 2,29,378, of which the land revenue and zamindari *takoli* Finances. amounted to Rs. 77,544.

No rules were enforced before 1889 for forest con- Forest management.
servancy. The right to collect lac and minor forest produce was leased from year to year from 1871. The first rules for forest conservancy were introduced in 1889. Certain forests were reserved. Timber was divided into 3 classes. The first was the more valuable and reserved class. The second could be removed on payment of a *nisār* or license fee, a nominal sum, for the private personal use of the tenants. Similarly the zamindars were allowed to remove from their zamindari forests timber and firewood for the use of themselves and their tenants, but were forbidden to sell timber : these rules are still in force. The rules referred to the fees chargeable for the various classes of timber and the rate of commutation fee to be charged to cultivating and non-cultivating classes of the State for the right to take second class timber from the forests. No restriction was placed on the removal of third class timber. The forests were then divided into—(a) Patna State *khalsa*, (b) *mālyazāri* forests, i.e., forests included within the area of the villages and (c) zamindari forests.

As regards the second class or the village jungles, the people are allowed the free use of the timber and jungle products, with the exception of first and second class timber, and such items as resin, cocoons, skins and palm juice. They pay a commutation fee of 4 annas per plough, however, to take second class timber from the State forests. First class timber has of course to be paid for on a license system granted on regular scale.

The area of State forests, which in the settlement were demarcated from village forests, is 159 square miles, divided into 28 blocks: they have been demarcated, closed to grazing and cutting, except on license, and fire lines are now being out. A trained Forester has recently been appointed with a regular staff under him and the administration of the forests on regular lines is to be taken up. In 1907-08 the income under this head was Rs. 24,519.

Excise. An excise *Daroga* is in charge of the collection of excise revenue, but there is no regular excise staff and detection of smuggling and illicit distilling is left to the police force: in former years no check was placed on the number of outstills and shops and the system followed was to lease out a central outstill with a number of shops attached: during the last three years successful endeavours have been made to reduce the large number of shops scattered over the State and to approximate to a standard of one shop for every 30 square miles: considerable reductions have been effected, followed by a substantial increase in revenue: amongst the Khonds, it is, however, a difficult matter to reduce the number of shops, as the outstill is a regular village institution. The zamindars enjoy their own excise revenue as regards country liquor and make their own excise settlement, which both in the *khalsa* and zamindari areas are made by public auction. The State obtains its supply of opium from the Sambalpur Treasury. As regards *ganja* the State obtains Khandwa *ganja* from Nimâr.

The brewing of *kusna*, *handia* or *pachwas* (rice beer) is not allowed even on license. The Khonds formerly used to brew *mahua* liquor in their houses, but this has been stopped. In 1907-08 the excise revenue amounted to Rs. 36,032.

Civil Justice. The total number of civil suits for disposal in 1907-08 was 735 out of which 66 per cent. were below Rs. 50 in value.

Crime. In former years outbreaks of violent crime were not uncommon and the serious outburst of dacoity in 1899 led to the appointment of an officer from the British police force to hold charge of the State police. Of recent years the police have been carefully trained, organised and abuses put down and crime has returned to normal proportions. The police force consists of one Inspector, one Circle Inspector, seven Chief Constables 40 Head-Constables, and 172 men, besides *chaukidars* (village watchmen) and *paiks* (State militia). The jail contains accommodation for 124 prisoners and is a fine commodious masonry building of modern construction, with quarters for jailor and

Police.

Jail.

jail staff and warders: regular labour is exacted and the administration of the jail is on modern lines. In 1907-08 the daily average jail population was 120·4. There is a regular Public Works Department and the execution of public works has been entrusted by the Chief to the Agency Executive Engineer: at the headquarters there are fine public buildings: the Chief's residence, the courts and offices, dispensary, circuit-house, jail, schools and hostels are imposing and substantial buildings.

Considerable attention has been given in this State to the cause of education, and this is especially noticeable in the rural schools. The zamindars and larger *umrahs* have built excellent school houses. To all the rural schools there are Committee members who actually meet and are useful in inducing the parents to send their children to school. *Deshi-kasrat* (country exercises) is very well taught at all the schools. At Bolāngir the Middle English and Middle Vernacular schools are good institutions and well housed with an excellent hostel attached. The total number of schools in the State in 1907-08 was 44, and the number of pupils was 4,685; the average percentage of attendance was 73 and the percentage of boys of school-going age at school was 9·5 and of girls, 1·6. Including the girls' school at Bolāngir, there were altogether 692 girls under instruction; in the rural schools they read with the boys. The schools are looked after by a qualified State Deputy Inspector. A considerable number of pupils are annually successful in passing the Upper and Lower Primary examinations and in the High School Scholarship Examination. One of the features of the educational system of the State are the special schools for low caste children.

CHAPTER XX.

RAIRAKHOL STATE.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS. THE State of Rairākhōl lies between 20° 56' and 21° 24' N., and between 83° 59' and 84° 53' E. It is bounded on the north by Bāmra State; on the east by Athmallik State and Angul district; on the west by the Sambalpur *khālsa*; and on the south by Sonpur State. It is of irregular formation, the extreme length, east and west, being some fifty miles, and the extreme breadth thirty miles. The total area is 833 square miles, of which some three-fifths are cultivated, the rest being forest and hills. The soil is light and sandy. There are *sal* (*Shorea robusta*) forests in the State, and plenty of other useful timber for building purposes. There are no rivers; the principal streams are the Champāli and the Tikkirā, but they are insignificant. The State consists of a series of low hill ranges trending to the valley of the Mahanadi. Here and there higher isolated ridges are encountered; but, except towards the Bāmra border, there are no regular uplands. The country is for the most part covered with forest, which in the valleys is mostly of the nature of scrub-jungle. The hill-sides are, however, reserved and there is some fine timber on them. The commonest tree is *rengal* or *sal* (*Shorea robusta*); there is also a considerable quantity of *kendu* (ebony—*Diospyros melanoxylon*), *byā* (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*) and some *sisū* (*Dalbergia Sissoo*). In many of the villages regular groves of mangoes are to be met with, and *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*) and *chār* (*Buchanania latifolia*) trees are common. The *harirā* (*Terminalia chebula*) or myrobalan, however, is comparatively scarce, and does not flourish here so well as in the Gāngpur and Bonai States. The valleys have all been cleared for rice lands, and the forests on the uplands rising from the valleys are cultivated as *gorā* or uplands (here known as *at*). The area available for regular rice cultivation is small, and this, no doubt, accounts for the extensive cultivation of *gorā* or uplands. Between the boundaries of the different villages small patches of forest have been reserved. Iron ore of excellent quality is found in many places. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08 was 61·5 inches. The headquarters of

the State are at Rāmpur situated at a distance of 42 miles from the town of Sambalpur.

The State of Rairākhōl is attached to the Sambalpur district. HISTORY.
It was formerly a zamindāri, subordinate to Bāmra, but was made into an independent State, and constituted one of the Garhjat cluster, by the Patnā Chiefs, about a century and a half ago. The Chief is by caste a Obauhan Rājput. The State was not at first included in the list of Feudatory States in the Central Provinces. The Chief, however, was conspicuous for his loyalty in 1857, and in 1866 an adoption *sanad* was granted and in 1867 the State was recognised as a Feudatory State by the British Government and received a *sanad* accordingly. The State was transferred in October 1905 from the Central Provinces to the Orissa Division in Bengal. The late Chief Rājā Gaur Chandra Deva died in July 1906 and adopted the brother of the Chief of the Bonai State as his heir: the Chief is a minor and the State accordingly is under the administration of Government. The emblem of the State is *Sankha Padma* (conch shell and lotus).

The 'population' in 1866 was returned at 25,000, and according THE PEOPLE.
to the census of 1901 it was 26,888. There has been but little increase in population, the land being poor and unsuitable for any large agricultural population. The non-agricultural castes are Brāhmins, Rājputs, and Mahāntis. The main agricultural castes are Chasās (7,188), and Dumāls (1,026). The population of the State is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 12,487, females, 11,877, total 24,364 or 90·6 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Hindus 51·2. Musalmāns—males, 52, females, 40, total 92 or 0·34 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Musalmāns, 56·5. Animists—males, 1,381, females, 1,044, total 2,425 or 9·02 per cent. of the total population; proportion of males in total Animists, 56·9. Christian —*nil*. Sikhs, 7. The number of persons able to read and write is 281 or 1·05 per cent. of the total population. Averages:—Villages per square mile, 0·38; persons per village, 84; houses per square mile, 6·7; houses per village, 17·0; persons per house, 5. The State contains 319 villages which are classified as follows:—316 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 2 with from five hundred to one thousand inhabitants, and one with from one thousand to two thousand inhabitants.

This is the most sparsely populated State, except Bonai, amongst the States of Orissa, there being only 32 persons to the square mile.

There is a sprinkling of the cloth-manufacturing and artisan classes, chiefly iron-smelters and manufacturers of iron

implements. The principal castes are Gonds (2,653), Gandās (2,328), Sudhas (2,199), Khonds (1,757), Rāuts (1,633), and Kudās (1,383). Of these, Sudhas are amongst the wildest of the inhabitants of this State; they fell the forest on the hill-sides and burn it (*dahī* cultivation); in the ashes they bury their seeds just at the break of the rain; they live in no regular villages, but each family lives separately over its own cultivation in small huts perched on stakes and from this coign of vantage they guard their crops from the ravages of wild animals. The Butkā Sudhas of this State are a very prominent race and they are supposed to have played a prominent part in the history of the Rairākhhol State: they have several villages allotted to them and perform sacrifices for the Rāj family.

The people are naturally wild and jungly. They are a sturdy and well set up race. They obtain much in the way of supplies from the forests and eat the fruit of the *kendu*, *chār* and *mahua* trees in considerable quantities. The country is very poorly watered, and there is little opportunity for irrigation. The people are well clad in home-spun raiment. They appear to be superior in material condition to the people of the Bonai State, which in natural features is not unlike Rairākhhol, except that in the former State the valley of the Brāhmani river where it flows through the State affords an area of good culturable land. Rairākhhol, however, is shut off from the Mahānadi by the State of Sonpur. The rental is light, and the people cultivate also large areas of uplands.

**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

The State being covered for the most part with dense forest, it is malarious and new settlers suffer greatly from fever: the regular residents of the State, however, are fairly healthy. The people are particularly averse to vaccination and outbreaks of small-pox are frequent: visitations of cholera are also not uncommon. There is a dispensary at Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State, in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant: there is accommodation for indoor patients: the number of patients treated in 1907-08 was 8,845. Vaccination work is performed by the State free of cost to the people: the work is supervised by a Vaccination Inspector: revaccination was until recently practically unknown, but the prejudice against vaccination is being gradually overcome. In 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 662 and that of revaccinations, 1,999.

**AGRICUL-
TURE.**

The soil is not very fertile and the State carries a small population of only 32 persons to the square mile. Rice is the staple crop: pulses, cotton, oil-seeds and sugarcane are also cultivated. Nothing so far has been done to improve the varieties of crops grown or to introduce new crops. The kinds of soil found in the

Soil.

Soils are:—(1) *Bermata*—This is a soil which in ploughing is very adhesive, but in the hot weather quickly becomes dried and baked and will not retain its moisture. (2) *Khaki*—A greyish slippery soil which retains moisture. (3) *Balia*—A sandy soil of poor value. (4) *Ruguria*—This is a light sandy soil containing a great deal of *muram* or disintegrated laterite. It is mostly found on the upland cultivation. (5) *Patharia*—An inferior stony soil. (6) *Palua*—This is a good clayey soil found mostly by the banks of streams.

The lands have been regularly measured by the chain for settlement purposes and recorded in acres and decimals. The people, however, still speak of so many *khandis* of land, i.e., the quantity of seed required for sowing the lands, a *khandi* here being equal to about 20 seers. In this way a piece of land sown by one *khandi* (20 seers) is called *khandi-kut*.

The crops grown are as follows:—

Crops.

At *dhān* (upland paddy) viz.: (1) *Bāunsabuta*, (2) *Saria*, (3) *Kulia*, (4) *Chāulamanyi*; these are sown in the month of *Ashādha*, i.e., from the 15th June and reaped in the month of *Dasharā*, i.e., from the 15th September. *Gulji*, *rendo*, and *kāngosudā* are also grown on *at* land and sown in the beginning of the rainy-season, and reaped in the month of *Ashwin*, i.e., by the 15th September.

Dhān (paddy) of inferior quality. (1) *Mālkankhāi*, (2) *Bāunsanakhī*, (3) *Hiran*, (4) *Dholmātia*, (5) *Kusumapundā*, (6) *Kharakoili*, (7) *Champā*, (8) *Mankiri*, (9) *Mālyuthi*, (10) *Badyarāj*, (11) *Banidkonti*, (12) *Bātharāj*, (13) *Mugdhi*. All these varieties are sown in the months of *Jyāishtha* and *Ashādha*, i.e., in June and July. The sowing of *dhān* (rice) during these months is known as *kharadi* sowing and *batari* sowing. They are reaped in the months of *Dasharā* and *Kārttik*, that is, by the 15th September.

Dhān (paddy) of superior quality. (1) *Sunāpāni*, (2) *Jhalakakeri*, (3) *Chināmāl*, (4) *Pipāibāsh*, (5) *Rādhābhog*, (6) *Krishnakālā*, (7) *Makarkām*, (8) *Jhiliparāgi*, (9) *Lakshmithog*, (10) *Sagardhulā*, (11) *Nāgpuri*, (12) *Gandmāl*, (13) *Rādhābulābh*. These varieties are sown in the months of *Jyāishtha*, *Ashādha* and *Shrābana*, i.e., in the months of June and July, and are transplanted. The transplantation is known as *sohharā*. The harvest is reaped in the month of *Mārgashira*, i.e., by the 15th November.

Mustard seed (1) *Bhadoi* mustard: the variety sown in the beginning of the month of *Ashādha*, i.e., so soon as the rain falls, is called *bhadoi* mustard, and is reaped in the month of *Bhādraba*, i.e., August. (2) *Māghi* mustard: this variety which is sown in the month of *Bhādraba*, i.e., in the month of

August, is called *māgh*; mustard being reaped in the month of *Māgh*. *Birhi*, *kulhi*, *māga* (pulse), *barāi* (pulse). Sugarcane is planted in the month of *Phālguna*, i.e., in February, and *gur* (molasses) is prepared in the month of *Paush*, i.e., in December.

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

The assessment is very light and the average rates paid per acre for regular rice or lowlands are, first class (*bahāl*) Re. 1-4-8, second class (*bernā*) Re. 1-2-0, third class (*māl*) Re. 0-9-9: uplands are assessed at an average rate of Re. 0-7-9. There are special rates for sugarcane lands (*barchhā*), viz., Rs. 3-2. The three divisions of lowlands are each subdivided into four classes according as they are favourably situated for irrigation or naturally retain the rainfall: the uplands are similarly divided into four classes. Uplands, on which catch-crops are raised every second or third year by burning the scrub-jungle, pay at the rate of two annas per acre.

The labouring classes in this State are divided as follows:— (1) *Gutis*.—These receive a monthly wage in kind and after the harvest they receive from 2 *purugs* (8 maunds) to 2 *purugs* 4 *khandis* (10 maunds) according to the character of the harvest; this is known as their *nistār* (yearly reward) or *bartan*. They also receive three pieces of cloth annually. Their engagements date from 1st *Māgh* (January-February). (2) *Kuthiās*.—These people are given no monthly wage, but feed in their master's house; they get as their *nistār* or yearly reward after the harvest from 1 *purug* (4 maunds) to 1 *purug* 2 *khandis* (5 maunds) of unhusked rice, and they also receive three pieces of cloth. Their duties mainly are to act as herdsmen and assist the *gutis*. They are also engaged from 1st *Māgh*. (3) *Khamāris*.—This is a superior class and they act as head labourers or foremen in charge of the classes mentioned above; they receive monthly wages in kind and a yearly *nistār* or reward of 8 *purugs* (12 maunds) of paddy and 4 pieces of cloth.

Average wages given in late years to different kinds of workmen are:—Superior mason and carpenter, 10 annas each; common mason and carpenter, 4 annas each; superior blacksmith, 6 annas; common blacksmith, 3 annas; and ordinary cooly, 1½ anna. There has been a steady tendency to a rise in the wages of superior workmen. The average price during late years of rice, *māga*, *urid*, *kulhi* and salt has been 20 seers, 12 seers, 24 seers, 80 seers and 10 seers respectively.

A measure called *bhuti tāmbi* containing about 1½ seer when rice is measured and about 1 seer when unhusked rice (*dālā*) is measured is in use here.

The scale is as follows:—

20 <i>Tāmbis</i> = 1 <i>Khandi</i> (=about 20 seers)	{	Paddy (unhusked
8 <i>Khandis</i> = 1 <i>Purug</i> (=about 160 seers)		rice) is measured
		by this standard.
8 <i>Tāmbis</i> = 1 <i>Kuta</i> (=10 seers)	{	This is the measurement
8 <i>Kutas</i> = 1 <i>Pastāni</i> (=80 seers)		for <i>chaul</i> (rice).

The principal occupation of the people is agriculture. Of the total population 60 per cent. live on agriculture; 30 per cent. follow professions; 0·50 per cent. live on iron smelting; 0·50 per cent. live on trade; 1 per cent. are engaged on sleeper and timber works and the balance work as field-labourers, State servants, etc.

OCCUPA-
TIONS,
MANUFAC-
TURES AND
TRADE.

There is a very considerable manufacture of iron in this State. Notwithstanding that iron ore is so plentiful throughout the Sambalpur district, this is the only part of it where smelting is carried on to any extent. Here there are some eight or ten villages, the inhabitants of which are constantly thus employed. Traders from Cuttack come up periodically and carry off the iron on pack-bullocks. The State derives no income from the trade; the smelters used merely to give to the State a very trifling tax for the right to work up the ore, but this tax has recently been abolished in order to encourage the industry. It is said that the iron is of very good quality, and that traders make a large profit by its sale. The smelters receive considerable advances from the traders. The rearing of tussar silk cocoons in the State forests is a local industry, as is also the extraction of catechu. There is little or no export of food-grains from the State: but there is a small trade in oil-seeds, forest products, and labour is employed in working for the sleeper contractors. The principal imported articles are spices, salt, tobacco and kerosene oil.

There is an excellent road from Sambalpur to Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State, and then on to the borders of the Athmallik State. This is the main Sambalpur-Cuttack road. There are good surface roads from Rāmpur to Bāmra and to the Sonpur border near the Mahanadi, giving communication with Sonpur. The main road of the State passes across the watershed and is naturally of steep gradients. This road is largely used for the export of sleepers from the State and the neighbouring State of Athmallik. There is a small rest-house at Mochibānāl on the road at the border of the State and the Sambalpur district and a good inspection bungalow is under construction at the headquarters. The Imperial post plies daily between Sambalpur and Rāmpur, there being a branch post office at Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The land revenue administration is similar in many respects to that of the Sambalpur district: the rules for the administration of revenue affairs framed by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces in 1889 for the States are in force. The last settlement was made by the late Chief in 1905 for a period of ten years and the current demand is Rs. 21,354. There are no zamindaris in the State.

The land revenue is collected with moderation; remission is granted where land has deteriorated or gone out of cultivation; *taccavi* loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act are given at 6½ per cent. to struggling villages, and if they cannot pull round the rental is revised. The *cesses* (dispensary and school) are assessed together at 2 annas per rupee of rent. The payments of *tika*, a voluntary offering of one rupee are made on two occasions, viz., in Shrabana at the Rākhi Pūrnimā and in Paush.

In this State the villages are leased out to—(1) *garhatias*, (2) *pradhans* and *gaontias*, who are chiefly found in the eastern area of the State. These have no right to mortgage or sell their villages; they are not ousted so long as they do not misconduct themselves or fall into arrears. The *bhogra* lands assigned to them as village headmen and collectors of the State revenue are lands equivalent in value to one-fifth of the total rental of the village. The difference between the status of the two classes is that the former, *garhatias*, do not pay *tika* which the *pradhans* and *gaontias* have to pay; the former, however, have to come with their men to guard the Chief's palace when he is away and furnish the Chief when travelling with escorts and are the heads of the villages which furnish the State militia (*patiks*). There are the usual maintenance, service and religious grants in the State. It is usual to assess *māfi* (free) grants to a small *tanki* or quit-rent at each settlement until the lands are gradually resumed.

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

Powers.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the provision of the *sanad* of 1867. The State pays a tribute liable to revision and which in 1909 was fixed at Rs. 2,000 for thirty years: the State is also liable to pay *nasardana* (succession fees) under the rules. The Chief has full criminal and civil powers, but capital sentences require confirmation by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division. The State is now under administration of Government with a Superintendent in direct charge under the control of the Political Agent: he is assisted by a *Talsildar* who has magisterial powers as well as being a revenue and executive officer. The administration is conducted to suit

the conditions of the people and though not on advanced lines it is run on modern systems. The total estimated revenue of the State in 1907-08 was Rs. 69,744: excluding land revenue the principal sources of income are forests, from which in 1907-08 the revenue was Rs. 27,970: sleeper operations are carried on by a contractor: firewood, thatching grass, bamboos, *loddh*, lac, tussar cocoons, catechu, resin, wax and honey yield a small income. The tenants pay the usual commutation fee, here called *nistar*, for the right to cut third class timber for their agricultural and domestic needs, including *sal* for use for ploughs. The State is, for the most part of its area, thickly covered with forests. At one time apparently it contained a considerable quantity of valuable *sal*; with the advance of the railway much of this has now been cut, and practically sleeper operations are now confined to the timber to be found on the hill sides, all trees fit for sleepers having been cut away from the valleys and uplands. The value of the forests as a source of revenue has been recognised and a distinction has been made between the forests falling within and without the village boundaries. In the former area the people can obtain wood for agricultural and domestic purposes on payment of the usual *nistar* levied at 4 annas and 2 annas respectively on cultivators and artisans as the case may be. If wood is taken from the reserved area, the regular forest rates have to be paid and passes obtained and the rates prevailing in Angul have been adopted. There is no regular excise staff in the State. The arrangements and conditions under which opium is supplied from Sambalpur are the same as in the case of the other Feudatory States attached to the Sambalpur district. *Ganja* is obtained from Nimār. The number of liquor shops in the State is not excessive and only averages one to every 36 square miles. There is no restriction on the brewing of *handia* (rice-beer) for home consumption. The excise revenue in the year 1907-08 amounted to Rs 7,492. The *haldian patti* or marriage tax is levied on the occasion of marriages in the family of the Chief; there is no demand however on the occasion of deaths in the family. The hide lease is given out as a monopoly: the tenants' interests are protected by their being allowed to keep such skins as they need for domestic and agricultural purposes: the rates fixed for payment for the hides by the contractor are reasonable and cattle-killing for the sake of the hide is rare. There was formerly a monopoly for the purchase of iron; but in the interest of the industry this has been abolished. The number of civil suits for disposal during the year 1907-08 was 314: these were generally of a petty nature. Crime is light.

Finances.

Forests.

Excise.

Taxes.

Monopoly.

Civil
justice.
Crime.

Police. but effectively dealt with. There is a regular police force, consisting of 7 Head-Constables and 28 constables in charge of an officer from the British police force. The jail is not quite suitable for present requirements and is being rebuilt. There are good public offices and buildings at the headquarters, and the public works are locally in charge of a Sub-Overseer under the Agency Executive Engineer.

Jail.

Public Works Department.

EDUCATION. Education is very backward in the State and endeavours are being made to open more schools, the number of schools in 1907-08 being 5: in 1907-08 only 282 pupils were on the rolls: a separate girls' school has recently been opened at the headquarters and there are signs of a growing interest among the better class of agriculturists in education, and during the year 1908-09 the number of schools has increased to 13. There is a good school house at Rāmpur. A Sub-Inspector of Schools has been recently appointed to promote the cause of education. The State enjoys the services of the Agency Inspector of Schools and contributes towards the cost of that officer's establishment.

CHAPTER XXI.

RANPUR STATE.

THE State of Ranpur lies between 19° 54' and 20° 12' N., and 85° 8' and 85° 28' E., with an area of 203 square miles. It is bounded on the north, east and south by Puri district, and on the west by Nayāgarh State. The south-west is a region of forest-clad and almost entirely uninhabited hills, which wall in its whole western side, except at a single point, where a pass leads into the adjoining State of Nayāgarh. To the north and east there are extensive fertile and populous valleys. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08 was 55·94 inches. The headquarters of the State are at Ranpur.

PHYSICAL
ASPECTS.

The Ranpur State claims to be the most ancient of all the States formerly known as the Orissa Tributary Mahāls and a list of the Chiefs of the State covers a period of over 3,600 years. The family records are most interesting, and besides noticing the exploits and marvellous deeds of individual Chiefs, contain references to the various paramount powers of Orissa from the early Hindu rulers to the Muhammadans and Marāthās, but their authenticity is doubtful. According to the family history of this State, Biswabasu and Biswabasab, two brothers of the Benu Rāj family, lived in the forests of the Nilgiri hills, but were driven out. The younger brother Biswabāsab fled with a few attendants and took refuge in the valley of the Munināg hill, amidst vast forest tracts, sparsely inhabited. Biswabāsab here established himself reclaiming the forests and gradually subdued the Bhuiyās of the neighbouring villages. It is related that one day when Biswabasab was walking in the forest he found an image of a goddess which he brought to Munināg hill and worshipped. The goddess being pleased with the worship appeared to him in a dream and said: "My son, this land belonged once to Ranāsaur, but you may now live here and construct a village on the eastern side of the hill. Your supremacy may continue permanently." Biswabāsab accordingly established the State and built a village and called it Ranpur. It is mentioned in the Kapil-Samhitā that 1,274 years of the Kali

HISTORY.

Yuga had passed when this State was established. This would be many years before the commencement of the Christian era. It was at first bounded on the south by Boitā hill and the Haldā river; west by the Kusumī river; north by the Horā river; east by Kantāināl and the Champāibhuin hill. The area of the State was once more extensive than it now is and tradition states that at one time the Dayā river was the eastern boundary, Bānki the northern, and the Chilkā lake the southern boundary. On the death of a Chief a stone statue is erected, and according to this old custom the statues of deceased Chiefs are kept in the burial ground. The first 54 Chiefs are alleged to have held the *gadi* of the State for 1,743 years, and on the death of Ananta Singh, the 54th Chief, his son Harihar Singh, succeeded, according to the family tradition, to the *gadi* in the year A.D. 16. Arjun Bhanj, Chief of Baud, defeated Nidhi Singh the 85th Chief and conquered Ranpur. But his son, Pitāmbar Singh recovered the State, became Chief of Ranpur, and holding the *gadi* for 50 years died in 1108 A.D. In the 12th century the then Chief of Ranpur received at the hands of Ananga Bhīma Deva, Rājā of Orissa, the title of "Narendra" and was enrolled among the Sāmanta Rājas owing to his prowess in battle. Since his time, the Chiefs of Ranpur have always enjoyed the title of "Narendra". Rājā Rām Chandra Narendra the 96th Chief who succeeded to the *gadi* in 1437 A.D., did much to improve and develop the State and was a student of astronomy. His son extended the northern and eastern boundaries of the State of Ranpur, constructed seven strong forts, held his *gadi* for 49 years and died in 1525 A.D. He was succeeded by his son, Banamālī Narendra, who is said to have been an expert in statuary. Stone images made by him are still to be found in many places within the State.

During the time of the Chief Rām Chandra Narendra, who held the *gadi* from 1692 to 1727 A.D., many inhabitants of Khurdā, owing to the oppression of the Muhammadans, fled for shelter to Ranpur and settled there. He was succeeded by his son, Sārangadhar Bajradhar Narendra, who held his *gadi* from 1727 to 1754 A.D. During his time the Marāthās under Raghujī conquered Orissa. Sārangadhar met Raghujī by the side of the Mahānadi river, and the story goes that in order to prove his prowess as a warrior he killed a wild buffalo with a stick of sugarcane. Raghujī as a reward for Sārangadhar's bravery gave him the title of "Bajradhar" which is still employed as a family title by the Chiefs of the State. The present Chief Krishna Chandra Singh Deva Birabar Bajradhar Narendra

Mahāpātra succeeded in 1899 A.D. The emblem of the State is a sword and the family title is Bajradhar Narendra Mahāpātra.

The population increased from 40,115 in 1891 to 46,075 in 1901; it is contained in 261 villages, and the density is 227 persons to the square mile. Hindus number 45,762 of the whole population, by far the most numerous caste being the Chasās (14,000). Next in importance rank the Gauras (3,500). There is a comparatively small population of Khonds (1,631). The population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 22,818, females, 22,944. The Hindus thus form 99·3 per cent. of the population of the State; proportion of males in total Hindus, 49·8 per cent. Musalmāns—males, 183, females, 130: total of Musalmāns, 313, or ·67 per cent. of the population; proportion of males in total Musalmāns, 58·4 per cent. Christians, *nil*. Literates number 3,101 or 6·7 per cent. of the population. Averages:—villages per square mile, 1·29; houses per village, 35·4; persons per village, 177; persons per house, 5; houses per square mile, 45·0. The villages are classified as follows:—247 with less than five hundred; 11 with from five hundred to a thousand; 2 with from a thousand to two thousand and 1 with from two to five thousand inhabitants. The people are well off; the lands are fertile and there is ready means of export for surplus stocks.

There is a charitable dispensary at headquarters with a small indoor ward: the number of patients treated in 1907-08 was 10,607. The country to the south and east is not unhealthy, but in other parts of the State, fever is very prevalent, 43 per cent. of the deaths in the State being due to fever: cholera in epidemic form, frequently introduced by pilgrims from Puri, accounted during the ten years from 1893 to 1902 for 26 per cent. of the deaths. Vaccination is not popular in the State, but is gradually making headway and the number of primary vaccinations 945 in 1907-08 was the largest for many years: in the year 1906-07 revaccination was started, and in 1907-08 the number of revaccinations was 65. The work is carried on by licensed vaccinators, who are local men trained in the special vaccination class at the Medical School, Cuttack.

The open area of the State is well cultivated and the villages are large and populous: winter rice is the main crop, but early rice is grown in considerable quantity and excellent crops of oil-seeds and pulses are raised. The total area of the State is 130,969 acres, of which forests occupy 80,280 acres; the normal acreage under crops is 35,934 acres, of which 3,000 acres are

twice-cropped: of this area rice normally occupies 31,142 acres *māṇḍā* 643 acres and *tīl* (sesamum) 350 acres.

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

The assessment averages per *mān* (two-thirds of an acre) for first, second and third class rice lands Rs. 3-6-2, Rs. 2-5-6 and Re. 1-4-10 respectively and for uplands, Re. 1-0-8. During the ten years from 1893 to 1902 wages have shown no tendency to rise and the daily wage has averaged as follows:—superior mason, 4½ annas, common mason, blacksmith and carpenter, 3 annas each, superior carpenter and superior blacksmith, 4 annas each, cooly, 1½ annas: during the same period the average price of wheat, rice, gram and salt has been 9¾ seers, 20¾ seers, 25¼ seers, 12½ seers respectively.

OCCUPA-
TIONS,
MANU-
FACTURES
AND
TRADE.

There are no occupations or manufactures which call for notice. There are bi-weekly markets at headquarters, where country products are bartered for iron, cotton, blankets, cloth, silk, wheat and clarified butter brought from the Khandparā State, and for fish from the Chilkā lake.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

The State lies close to the East Coast section of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway and the headquarters are connected with the line of rail at Kaluparāghat station by a good road. There is also a good feeder road from the headquarters to the Madras Trunk Road, 10 miles in length, partly bridged and metalled. A new surface road from the headquarters to the Nayāgarh border is under construction. There is a rest-house for travellers at the headquarters and a post office. The post plies *via* Khurda.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The land revenue demand amounts to Rs. 44,892 and is realised in two instalments in November and April. No cesses are levied and there are no zamindāris in the State. The number of grants, known as *khanyā* grants to relations of the Chief by way of maintenance is considerable. The system of the land revenue administration is similar to that of other States and the village *sarbarāhhārs* (headmen) receive a cash commission on collection. The last land settlement was made in 1899 for a period of twenty years: six rates were fixed for wet cultivation varying from Rs. 4-11-0 to Rs. 2-1-4 per *mān* (two-thirds of an acre).

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The State is administered by the Chief assisted by a *Divān*, and the relations with the British Government are defined by the *sanad* of 1894 which was revised in 1908. The estimated annual revenue of the State is about Rs. 54,000 and a tribute of Rs. 1,401 is paid to the British Government. Forests yielded in 1907-08 a revenue of Rs. 2,227: no green timber is sold and the Chief has reserved forest areas; the forests in the past have been considerably depleted of valuable timber: in 1907-08

FINANCES,
FORESTS.

excise yielded Rs. 2,442: the supply of opium, which may be Excise. obtained from the Government treasury, is limited to 7 seers per mensem. The majority of the civil suits are of a petty Justice. nature, the greater number being for sums under Rs. 50 in value: in 1907-08 the number of civil suits for disposal was 207, 64 per cent. of them being below the value of Rs. 50. Crime is Crime. light and there is very little serious crime; the total number of cases reported to the police in 1907-08 being 36: the police force consists of one Sub-Inspector, 5 Head-Constables and 21 Police. constables. The jail is an old building with mud walls and the Jail. accommodation is for 20 prisoners. In 1907-08 the average daily population was 11.61. In 1907-08 the total expenditure Public Works Department. incurred in the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 2,119.

The State maintains a Middle English, 3 Upper Primary Educa- and 33 Lower Primary schools, besides there is one private TION. school: the number of pupils in 1907-08 on the rolls was 660. The State receives assistance from Government for primary education.

CHAPTER XXII.

SONPUR STATE.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS. THE State of Sonpur is situated in 20° 32' and 21° 11' N., and 83° 27' and 84° 16' E. It is bounded on the north by Sambalpur district and a portion of the State of Rairākhil; on the south and south-east by the State of Baud; on the east by the Rairākhil State; and on the west by the State of Patnā. The area is 906 square miles, rather more than one-half of which is situated on the right bank of the Mahānadi and the remainder on the left bank. The aspect of the country is flat and slightly undulating; and isolated hills of no great altitude rise abruptly here and there. The soil is, as elsewhere in this part of the Mahānadi valley, poor; it is not alluvial, and contains a considerable proportion of sand. There are no forests of any great extent, and such as exist do not contain any valuable timber. The principal rivers are the Mahānadi which flows through the centre of the State, the Ang, which for part of its course forms the boundary between the States of Patnā and Sonpur: the Suktel also crosses the southern portion of the State flowing into the Tel a few miles above the juncture of the Tel with the Mahānadi; the Jirā, an affluent of the Mahānadi, to the north, divides a portion of the State from Sambalpur. The Tel on the south forms the boundary with the State of Baud. The Jirā, the Ang and the Tel are all affluents of the Mahānadi on its right bank. Diamonds are occasionally found in the banks of the Mahānadi and deposits of mica occur in various parts of the State. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-08 to 1907-08—was 50·53 inches. The climate is similar to that of the Sambalpur district. The headquarters of the State are at Sonpur, 54 miles from Sambalpur, with which it is connected by a good gravelled road.

HISTORY. Sonpur was formerly a chiefship subordinate to Patnā, but was constituted a separate State by Rājā Madhukar Sāi of Sambalpur about the year A.D. 1560. Since then it has been counted among the cluster of Garhjat States. It is now attached to the Sambalpur district.

The family is Chauhan Rājput, being an offshoot from the family of the Rājā of Sambalpur. Their lineage is traced back

to Madan Gopāl, who obtained the State about 300 years ago. He was the son of Madhukar Sāi, fourth Rājā of Sambalpur. The succession has since continued regularly. The grandfather, Nīlādhar Singh Deva Bahādur, of the present Chief obtained the title of Rājā Bahādur for services to the British Government in the field: Rājā Pratāp Rudra Singh Deva Bahādur, father of the present Chief, obtained the title of Rājā Bahādur in 1898 and the present Chief was given the personal title of Mahārājā in 1908. Extensive remains of old buildings in the neighbourhood of the Sonpur town show that in former times the town was more populous and important than at present. Sonpur was evidently colonised by the Hindus at an early period in its history as is shown by the copper-plate inscriptions in Sanskrit written in Kutīla character found in the neighbourhood of the town and attributed to the later Gupta Kings of Orissa and the Ganga Kings of Kalinga. Many old fashioned tiled (*nanda*) wells constructed by Brāhmanas are found at Sonpur. The emblem of the State is a *chakra* (discus).

According to the census of 1866 the population numbered ^{THE} 60,000 souls: in 1901 the population was 169,877 souls. ^{PEOPLE.} There is one large town and one large village in the State, viz., Sonpur and Binkā, both on the right bank of the Mahānadi, with a population of 8,887 and 3,843 respectively, and 898 ordinary villages. The density of the population is 188 persons to the square mile. The population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 82,333, females, 86,648, total 168,981 or 99·47 per cent. of the total population: proportion of males in total Hindus is 48·7 per cent. Musalmāns—males, 259, females, 250, total, 509 or 0·30 per cent. of the total population: proportion of males in total Musalmāns is 49·1 per cent. Animists—males, 175, females, 208, total, 383 or 0·23 per cent. of the total population. Christians—4. Number of literate persons is 1,758 or 1·03 (males 1·00, females, 0·03) per cent. of the total population. Averages—Villages per square mile, 0·99; persons per village, 179; houses per village, 40·2; houses per square mile, 42·2; persons per house, 4. The remaining 898 villages may be classified as follows:—Village with from two thousand to five thousand inhabitants, 1; villages with from one thousand to two thousand inhabitants, 6; villages with from five hundred to one thousand inhabitants, 36; villages with less than five hundred inhabitants 855.

The non-agricultural castes are Brāhmanas, Mahantis and Rājputs; and the agricultural castes are Ohasās, Kaitayās or Kolthās, Aghariās and Gonds. In most of the large villages are found

a sprinkling of the artisan classes, with a few weavers of coarse cloths—Telis, Mālis, etc. The population is for the most part agricultural. The principal castes are Gauras or Ahirs, Brāhmanas, Dumāls, Bhuliās and Kewats: the latter are the boatmen who follow a prosperous livelihood in transporting the surplus produce of the country to Cuttaek and Sambalpur. The great-grandfather of the present Chief was a patron of Sanskrit learning and established large colonies of Brāhmanas.

The Gandās (22,203) constitute a large percentage of the population and as in the Sambalpur district compose the criminal element of the population: they are poor; a certain number of them earn regular employment as field labourers and weavers, but the majority dislike regular labour and eke out an existence by occasional labour and the proceeds of theft.

The Bhuliās (7,527) are the class who weave the tusser cloth for which Sonpur is highly reputed; an account of the industry will be found under the head of occupations, manufactures and trade.

**PUBLIC
HEALTH.**

The climate of the Sonpur State is not unhealthy and, as there are no forests, malarial fever is not rife; the town and large villages are, however, subject to visitations of cholera and occasionally of small-pox. There are dispensaries with accommodation for indoor patients both at Sonpur and Binkā: the Medical Officer of the State possesses the qualifications of an Assistant Surgeon and there are two Civil Hospital Assistants in direct charge of the two dispensaries. The number of outdoor patients treated in 1907-08 was 16,433, number of indoor patients treated was 62. Vaccination is carefully attended to and supervised by a Vaccination Inspector and a considerable number of revaccinations are annually performed: in 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 8,237 and number of revaccinations in the same year was 8,606.

**AGRICOL-
TURE.**

The principal crop is rice; the lands are highly cultivated and in good years a considerable quantity of rice and oil-seeds is available for export: pulses, cotton and sugarcane are also largely cultivated. The villages are extensive and prosperous and carry a large agricultural population: excellent reservoirs for irrigation are found in most villages, the total number of tanks being 1,698. The greater area of the State in regard to its agricultural development closely resembles the well cultivated *tahsil* of Bargarh in the Sambalpur district.

**NATURAL
SCARCITY.
Famine.**

The State is liable to scarcity, but has but rarely suffered from famine. The only famine of which there is record occurred in 1899-1900. The rainfall was very scanty, being only 26.05

inches and was badly distributed : the rainfall was insufficient to fill the tanks and in consequence the fields could not be irrigated : 50 per cent. of the rice crop on the first class irrigated lands, 70 per cent. on second class lands, 85 per cent. on third class and 30 per cent. of the upland rice crop were lost : winter crops failed to germinate owing to want of moisture in the soil. Wheat, however, was sown by about 30 per cent. of the cultivators and this crop was of very great assistance. The price of rice stood at 20 seers per rupee at the beginning of 1899 but fell in 1900 to 8½ seers. Relief works were undertaken and kitchens played a prominent part in the relief given : they were opened at all the important centres in the State and the zamindārs also maintained kitchens at their headquarters : 17 kitchens in all were opened, gratuitous relief to respectable poor and taccavi loans to cultivators and weavers were given : the total amount of loans thus given was Rs. 27,628 to 8,239 recipients. Regular employment on works was found for 2,979 persons and the expenditure, including assistance to the dependents of the workers, amounted on this account to Rs. 15,332 : the number of persons fed at the 17 kitchens was 14,674 at a total cost of Rs. 13,549. The paupers mostly came from members of the Gandā, Gaura, Saharā, Dumāl, Kewat and Khadāl castes.

The assessment is light : the average rates prevailing for rice lands per acre are first class Re. 1-4, second class Re. 1-2, and third class Re. 0-12; uplands are assessed at an average rate of 5 annas per acre. The average rate for sugarcane (*barchhā*) lands is Re. 1-12-3 per acre, but first class land for sugarcane pays in the case of *bhogrā* Rs. 3-2-2 per acre and ryoti Rs. 2-10-0. Average daily wage given to first, second and third class mechanical labour is 8 annas, 6 annas and 5 annas or 4 annas respectively : average wage given to ordinary cooly is 2 annas. The field labourers in this State are divided as follows :—

(1) *Gutis*.—These receive from 2 *khandis* (1 maund) to 2 *khandis* 10 *tāmbis* (1 maund 10 seers) of *dhān* (unhusked rice) as a monthly wage. After the harvest they receive from 2 *purugs* (8 maunds) to 2 *purugs* 4 *khandis* (10 maunds) annually as their *nistār* (yearly reward) : in certain cases these are given pieces of land yielding 2 *purugs* or 2 *purugs* 4 *khandis* of *dhān* instead of the annual payment. They also receive 2 pieces of cloth worth 8 annas each annually. (2) *Khamāris*.—This is a superior class, and they act as head labourers ; they receive 3 *khandis* (1 maund 20 seers) as a monthly wage and a yearly *nistār* (reward) of 3 *purugs* (12 maunds) of *dhān* or a piece of land yielding 3 *purugs* yearly. Other field labourers who are employed

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

daily, get from 2 to 3 *tambis* (2 to 3 seers) daily. The average price during the ten years from 1897-98 to 1907-08 of rice, *māga*, *urid*, gram, *kulthi*, *arhar* and salt has been $18\frac{1}{4}$ seers, $12\frac{3}{8}$ seers, $12\frac{1}{2}$ seers, $19\frac{1}{8}$ seers, $23\frac{1}{2}$ seers, $18\frac{1}{8}$ seers and $11\frac{1}{4}$ seers, respectively.

OCCUPA-
TIONS,
MANUFAC-
TURES
AND
TRADE.

Of the total population nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ th, i.e., 72.7 per cent. live on agriculture: 18.6 per cent. maintain themselves on industry; 0.70 per cent. follow professions for their livelihood: 3.1 per cent. have accepted State, village and personal services and 0.39 per cent. follow commerce. There is a considerable export trade of rice and pulses *via* the Mahānadi to Cuttack and Sambalpur. The town of Sonpur and the village of Binkā are important trade marts for the river export trade. At the village of Tarbhā on the Patnā border there is an important trade centre for cart and pack-bullock traffic: this village is the centre on which the export trade from Baud, the Khondmāls, Patnā and Kālāhandi concentrates and from there finds its way either to Sonpur or Binkā for shipment on boats along the Mahānadi or travels on by road to Sambalpur. The principal manufacture of the State is the weaving by the Bhuliā caste of tusser cloth of excellent quality: the chief centres of this industry are at Sonpur and Binkā and the latter place is noted for the quality of the cloth turned out, which is only slightly inferior to the best qualities produced at Barpālī in the Sambalpur district.

Tusser
industry.

The cultivation of the tusser cocoons is largely carried on in the State, but the great centre for the manufacture of the tusser cloth is at Sonpur. A large population of the caste known as Bhuliās resides at Sonpur and its neighbourhood and carry on a considerable industry. The tusser cloth woven at Sonpur is held in high repute. The caterpillars or *kosā* feed on the *sāhāj* or *āsan* (*Terminalia tomentosa*) tree and spin their cocoons on the *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*) and *sima* or *dhaurā* (*Lagerstœmia parviflora*) trees. The cultivation of the caterpillars and the collection of the cocoons are carried on by the Pāns or Gandās. The cocoons after collection are dried in the sun for two or three days to kill the chrysalis, but if this be not sufficient the cocoons are boiled in a pot with straw and water. To prepare the cocoons for the removal of the threads, a mixture of ashes and water is prepared and this with some straw is placed in an earthen pot together with cocoons and boiled, 4 pints of water being added for every 300 cocoons placed in the vessel. The cocoons are boiled until they obtain the softness of cotton and emit a peculiar smell: they are then washed in pure water and placed on a bed of wood ashes to absorb the moisture. To wind off the tusser thread to

make the woof yarn the cocoons are placed in an open dish and four or five threads are pulled out from a similar number of cocoons, interlaced in accordance with the thickness of the yarn it is desired to obtain.

The threads are interlaced by twirling them on the left thigh with the flat of the left hand adding a little wood ash to strengthen the strands; the right hand at the same time revolves the reeling machine or *natā*; this portion of the work is generally done by small girls. When a sufficient quantity of thread has thus been reeled off, it is removed from the reeling machine and kept ready for use as a skein (*latā*) after being first washed in water. If still stronger yarn is required then the skeins on two reeling machines are spun off on to a larger machine twisting the yarns and uniting them into one in the process. For actual weaving purposes the yarn is wound from the skein on to bobbins by means of a spinning wheel (*rahantā*) and the bobbins are then placed in the shuttle.

For the preparation of the warp yarn the threads are spun off from seven cocoons: the threads are interlaced in the same manner as in the case of the woof yarn; the yarn thus spun is removed from the reeling machine (*natā*) and stretched on a frame (*jantar*) consisting of two flat parallel pieces of wood with pegs along the top of each and the yarn is laced across from opposite pegs: the two blocks of wood are connected below and kept firm by two bars. The warp yarn is then immersed in a pulp made of boiled paddy (i.e., the husks of the rice are not removed before boiling) and covered with ashes and is thus kept for one night: the yarn is finally polished by means of an instrument known as a weaver's key or *kunchi*. The warp yarn is then ready for use and is set up in the ordinary hand-loom of the country and the woof yarn is passed through it by the shuttle worked by hand.

Brass and bell-metal utensils and idols are also manufactured in this State. There is a small and special trade at Sonpur in the manufacture of cards for a game peculiar to these parts: the cards are small circular discs somewhat larger than a rupee made of tussar lacquered over: the figures on the cards are artistically executed and very finely coloured. The principal exported articles are rice and other food grains, oil-seeds, tussar cloth, cotton, molasses and *ghi* (clarified butter); and the principal imported articles are mill-made thread piece-goods, salt, brass utensils, kerosene oil, spices, stone and glass wares.

The greater part of the export trade of the State is carried by the Mahānadi and a considerable export of rice and pulses is carried on with Outtack and Sambalpur.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

The Tel is comparatively free from obstruction; and during the monsoon months there is some boat traffic from Patnā and timber is also floated down from the upper reaches of this river in the Kālāhandi State.

In the Mahānadi just opposite Sonpur there are dangerous rapids, which render the navigation difficult. There is a good road, the Cuttack-Sonpur-Sambalpur road on the right bank of the Mahānadi connecting with Dhamā in the Sambalpur district and passing through the important village of Binkā; there are bungalows every ten miles, from Cuttack up to the Baud-Sonpur border: there are also bungalows at Sonpur and Binkā in the Sonpur State and at Dhamā. A new road is under construction from Dhamā on the northern bank of the Mahānadi, in Sambalpur district, to the border of the State on the northern bank of the river and from there a State road is being constructed to a place opposite to Binkā and in future the traffic between the State and the Sambalpur district will cross the Mahānadi at Binkā, a far easier crossing than at Dhamā. There is an excellent road on the western border of the State forming the connecting link between Sambalpur, Bargarh and Barpāli in the Sambalpur district and Sālebhattā on the main road to the Patnā and Kālāhandi States. There is a rest-house on this road at Dungripāli, in the Sonpur State 12 miles from Barpāli. There is a surface road from Sonpur to Tarbhā, an important mart on the borders of the Patnā State. The imperial post runs from Sambalpur to Sonpur and on to Baud: there is a sub-post office at Sonpur and letter-boxes at important villages in the State.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The current land revenue demand in 1907-08, was Rs. 54,837. There are three *kists*—(1) January, 8 annas, (2) March, 4 annas and (3) June, 4 annas.

The villages are leased out with (1) *thikādārs* or *gaontīās* (farmers), (2) *garhaliās*, and (3) *birtīās*.

*Thika-
dārs or
gaontīās.*

Previously to 1887 the villages were put up to auction as regards the *bhogrā* lands—service lands of the lessee of the village; the amount bid for the *bhogrā* lands gave a right to hold the lease of the village for five years; the amount was paid down in a lump sum. Since 1887, the *thikādārs* (farmers or lessees) make annual payments for these *bhogrā* lands, the amount assessed previously to 1887 having been divided by five, which is now taken as the annual demand for the *bhogrā* lands. The *thikadār* obtains the benefit of all new lands brought under cultivation by the tenants until there is a new settlement. A new settlement is in progress and it is intended to have only two *kists*, the June *kist* being unsuitable. In the case of lands which

are abandoned and a new tenant takes them up the *thikadār* receives a *nazarāna* (bonus) from the new occupier. The *thikadār* is not allowed to mortgage or sell his village or his *bhogra* lands. All *thikadāri* villages pay *kar* (payment in kind) in March, consisting of *chāul* (rice) and *urid*.

If a *thikadār* dies during the period of settlement his son succeeds paying for mutation (*dākhil-khārij*) according to the rental of the village; he also gives a *salāmi* (*tika*)—gift—to the Chief and receives a piece of cloth (*lat*); if the son is not fit to carry on the village it remains in his name provided a suitable agent is forthcoming.

These people are on the same footing as the *thikadārs*—except *Garkhatias*. that the tenants in their villages only pay *urid* and *ghi* (clarified butter) as *kar* (payment in kind) and no *chāul* (rice). The people of these villages act as guards on the palace in the absence of the Chief; they render less *bethi* (free labour) in that they do not come into Sonpur to work. They render *bethi* (free labour) in repairing any *thāna* or school in their neighbourhood and looking after any road running through their villages; they do not however carry bundles for the Chief or provide transport. They are really the old feudal militia of the State and are known as *sipāhi* ryots or *paiks* (State militia); in some of these villages, however, there are two classes of tenants, viz., ordinary tenants and *sipāhi* tenants; in such cases the ordinary tenants are assessed in all respects in the same way as tenants in *thikadāri* villages. The *garkhatias* pay *dākhil-khārij* or mutation fees.

These tenure-holders are all Brāhmins who received their *Birsāns* villages on special terms: in some cases they were, or their ancestors were, the original founder of the villages. At the recent settlement their rents have been slightly increased, except in the cases of those who had *mukarrari pattās*—permanently fixed settlements—but these were very few. At the *Shrāvan Pūrnimā* (July-August) and *Pausk Pūrnimā* (December-January) these Brāhmins give coconuts and offer the thread to the Chief and at *Dasharā* come for sixteen days to celebrate the festival at the *garh* (headquarters). They pay the school-cess and *kar* (payment in kind) also on a reduced scale.

The tenures given as grants are the usual ones, e.g., *bābudāna* *Bābudāna*, grants to the Chief's relatives; there are 18 villages held in this way. These grants are usually held rent-free and do not contribute *kar* (payment in kind), but pay the school-cess. *Maf* (free) grants are of the usual kinds.—(1) *Debottar* (religious), (2) *brahmottar* (to Brāhmins) and (3) *naukrān* (service). *Maf grants*.

No payments in kind (*kar*) are made by these rent-free villages and tenures, but all pay the school-cess.

Payments in kind are only made by the *thikādāri* and *lgarhati* villages and are paid into the Chief's *bhandār* (store-house) on three occasions, viz. (1) *Nuakhia*.—Small contribution of *chāul* (rice), *mūga*, *gur* (molasses), *ghī* (clarified butter), curds, and grass for making brooms. These are paid in on the day fixed for eating new rice in the month of September. (2) *Dasharā*.—On this occasion in the month of September-October *ghī* (clarified butter), *til* (sesamum), curds and a goat are given. (3) In *Karttika* (October-November) *chāul* (rice), *mūga*, *ghī* (clarified butter), *tarkāri* (vegetables) and *gur* (molasses), are given for the Gopālji temple for the Gobardhan *Pūjā*. These are paid into the *bhandār* (store-house) and the temple's share is made over subsequently; a day is then fixed for feeding the idol and all the Brāhmans in the State.

Zamindaris.

In this State there are no large zamindāris; there are five small zamindāris, viz., Rāmpur, Kamsara, Barpāli, Sukhā and Pancharā; besides these there are six other zamindāris consisting of one or two villages each. The zamindārs are all Khonds and Binjhāls. The zamindāri of Pancharā was formerly part of the Baud State, but was mortgaged by the Chief of that State to the Sonpur Chief and eventually came into the possession of Sonpur: it lies across the Tel river. These zamindāris pay a *takoli* (tribute) to the State: this *takoli* is liable to revision at each settlement: in the two zamindāris, where small forests exist, the zamindārs have been allowed to collect the revenue from license-fees, but the income so derived is taken into account in assessing the *takoli*.

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the *sanad* of 1867. The Sonpur Chief has under the *sanad* the same powers and is liable to the same obligations as the Chiefs of the other States transferred from the Central Provinces to Bengal. The State pays a tribute of Rs. 12,000 to the British Government; the tribute is liable to revision and was last revised in 1909 for a period of thirty years.

The administration of the State is conducted personally by the Chief assisted by a *Diwān*, *Tahsildār* and *Naib Tahsildār*. The *Diwān* is the chief executive officer of the State and exercises powers of a Sessions and District Judge, the Chief being the appellate Court: the *Tahsildār* and *Naib Tahsildār* exercise powers of first and second class Magistrates respectively and also exercise jurisdiction in civil suits. The Chief is also ably assisted by his

brothers who serve as Honorary Magistrates and try civil suits. There are two benches also of Honorary Magistrates sitting at Sonpur and Binkā.

The total income of the State in 1907-08 was Rs. 1,54,054. Finances.

There are practically no forests in the State, and an attempt has been made on a small scale to reserve and reafforest a few of the small hills. The forest revenue in 1907-08 yielded Rs. 26,251. Forests.

Opium is obtained from Sambalpur and *gānja* is obtained from Nimār: the State does not charge the licensed vendors anything for cost of carriage from Sambalpur. Excise yielded a revenue of Rs. 82,874 in 1907-08. The hide lease of the State is auctioned out, but does not bring in a large sum. On occasions of marriages in the Chief's family a contribution, known as *haldiānpatti*, is levied; the rate varies from one to four annas per *purug* of land: it is only levied on the occasion of the marriage of the Chief, the eldest son and eldest daughter and in the case of the deaths of the Rāja or Rānī. The school-cess is levied at one anna per rupee: villages under every class of tenure-holder pay the cess, including the *māfi* (rent-free) villages. The zamindārs also pay this school-cess at the same rate. Excise.
Monopoly.
Contributions.

Formerly the various cesses and *abwābs* on industrial classes were in force, but these have now all been abolished. Also the *pichli* was levied; this was a tax on bullocks taking goods from the State for sale; the charge was four annas per bullock. These *abwābs* of *pātki* and *pichli* have been abolished. Cesses.

During the year 1907-08 the number of civil suits for disposal was 840, most of which were of a petty nature, only 16 suits exceeding Rs. 500 in value. Civil Justice.

The number of cases reported to the police in the year 1907-08 was 591. Crime.

The police force is now entirely under the control of the Chief: formerly the zamindārs entertained and paid for their own police, but since 1904 the force has been made entirely a State force and the zamindārs pay a police *takoli* or contribution. The Chief's uncle is the Superintendent of Police and he was trained in Sambalpur, where he holds the rank of an Honorary Assistant District Superintendent of Police: the force is in the direct charge of a capable Inspector from the British police. The force consists of 5 Sub-Inspectors, 23 Head-Constables and 149 constables. Police.

There is a good masonry jail at headquarters where the prisoners undergo regular labour and are taught to weave with the fly-shuttle loom. The present jail has accommodation for 83 Jail.

prisoners. In the year 1907-08 the daily average population was 94·5.

P. W. Department. The expenditure on public works, during the year 1907-08, amounted to Rs. 15,247.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. There are two municipalities, viz., Sonpur and Binkā : the revenues are entirely raised by imposing an octroi fee similar to that in force in Sambalpur : the octroi collections are annually leased out by the Municipal Commissioners. These two municipalities out of their funds maintain the local dispensary and the roads and bear the expenditure on primary education within the municipal areas and the Sonpur municipality contributes annually Rs. 986 for the town police. The municipalities work well and are much appreciated. The population in 1901 of Sonpur was 8,887 and of Binkā 3,843.

EDUCATION. The State takes great interest in education and there is a very fine Middle English school at Sonpur accommodated in a substantial building. In 1907-08 there were 33 schools in the State, of which two were Middle English schools, one Middle Vernacular school, three girls' schools, one Sanskrit *tal* and two special schools for low caste children. Of the 29 Primary schools, 25 are Upper Primary Schools and 4 Lower Primary Schools. In addition there were 10 *chātsāls* (elementary schools) or private institutions with 220 scholars. In 1907-08 the number of children on the roll was 2,117 boys and 471 girls, or 2,588 pupils in all. The State employs a special officer to control and supervise the schools in the interior. In 1907-08 the State spent Rs. 5,810 on education. The great advance and improvement made in the cause of education during recent years is one of the most marked features in the administration of this State.

CHAPTER XXIII.

TALCHER STATE.

THE State of Talcher lies between 20° 52' and 21° 18' N., and 84° 54' and 85° 16' E., with an area of 399 square miles. PHYSICAL ASPECTS. It is bounded on the north by the Bāmra and Pāl Laharā States; on the east by the Dhenkānāl State; and on the south and west by Angul district. The Brāhmani river traverses the State, and Talcher village, which contains the Rājā's residence, is picturesquely situated on a bend on its right bank. The State consists for the most part of open cultivated lands and there are no hill ranges of any considerable size or height. The largest is the range running at right angles to the Brāhmani river near Samal, and forming the boundary with the Dhenkānāl State. The State contains a coal field of which an examination was made in 1875. It was then reported that there is no seam of workable thickness and fairly good quality; that a final and thorough exploration could only be effected at a considerable expense; that the local consumption would never suffice to support a proper mining establishment, and that with the long and costly land carriage, no class of coal equal to Rāniganj coal could compete successfully at the Orissa ports with coal sent from Calcutta by sea. The project for utilizing the Talcher coal-beds has, therefore, been abandoned for the present. Iron and limestone are also found near the banks of the Brāhmani river, which separates Talcher on the east from Pāl Laharā and Dhenkānāl. Small quantities of gold are found by washing the sand of the river, but little profit accrues to the workers. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08 was 51.70 inches. The headquarters of the State are at Talcher.

According to tradition four sons of the Chief of Jaipur came to Puri on pilgrimage to see Jagannāth. In their pride of the Saryabansa and Rānā Thākur family to which they belonged, they failed to properly salute the then Rājā of Puri. They were not therefore allowed to see the idol of Jagannāth, and two of them were put to death under the Rājā's orders. The other two brothers fled to a place named Nādhārā, in the Dhenkānāl State, and there established a fort under the name of Bhīmanagari. HISTORY.

They also built a temple near the fort, and set up an idol named Rāmchandi Devi. This idol now belongs to Dhenkānāl.

The boundaries of the State at the time of its establishment were on the north Gāngnan in the Bāmra State; on the south Kamlāng in the Dhenkānāl State; on the east Altumā in the Dhenkānāl State; on the west the States of Bāmra and Angul. It is said that the Rājā of Puri fought a battle with the Rājā of Tālcher, conquered him and took away Nādhārā, Rāmchandi, Parjang, Palāsuni and Subalayā, and made them over to the Chief of Dhenkānāl. Gāngnan was similarly conquered by the Chief of Bāmra. None of the Chiefs received any *farmān* from the Mughals or Marāthas, but Dayānidhi Birabar Harichandan helped the British troops at the time of the rebellion of the Angul Rājā in 1847, and was rewarded with the title of Mahendra Bahādur, a *khilāt* and an elephant.

In very early times this family held sway in what is now the important village of Subalayā, in the Sonpur State, but was eventually driven out. Tradition relates that one of the Rājās of this race crossed the Brāhmani on a hunting expedition. Near Taleswari Devi, a hare killed the Rājā's dog, and the Rājā accordingly established a fort there. Some time after he was defeated by the Khonds of the place and fled to the forests. One day while asleep in the forest, Hingulā Devi appeared to him in a dream and addressed him thus:—"If you worship me and Taleswari, you will become victorious over your enemies, and in that case you should name the place Tālcher." The Rājā followed this advice and took the field. During an action Hingulā Devi appeared in the shape of a tiger and destroyed the opponents of the Chief. After that, when the Rājā was asleep, the Devi again appeared to him in a dream, and said that it was she and not a tiger that had destroyed his opponents. She advised the Rājā to sign his name with the initial of a tiger's head. The Rājā named the place Tālcher, and bestowed a village named Padmanāvpur on Brāhmins.

In the village of Gopālprasād, about 14 miles to the south-west of headquarters of the State, there is found the site of a goddess who is worshipped under the name of Hingulā. The site of the worship extends over the area of the coal fields which extend for some two or three miles in the neighbourhood of the village: the actual manifestation consists of a jet of gas issuing from the coal, which is either lighted by the priest or itself ignites on contact with the air. The worship of the goddess takes place on the fourteenth day of full-moon in the month of Chaitra (March-April). The goddess Hingula is alleged to appear some

days before this in a dream to her *sebaît* (priest), and indicates to him the exact spot of her coming revelation. The *sebaît* then proceeds to the spot indicated, and finding the natural fire burning keeps the flame burning by adding coal till the appointed hour of worship arrives, when a large crowd of worshippers attend from all quarters and make offerings of *ghî* (clarified butter), sugar, plantains, curd, goats, etc. Besides this annual worship, Hingulâ is also worshipped as an idol throughout the year in a secluded and solitary spot in the forest near the village. The *sebaît* sends forth emissaries throughout the States and the neighbouring districts of British India to spread the worship of Hingulâ. With threats of secretly firing their houses these emissaries extract contributions from the people and from time to time put into execution their threats. A very close watch has to be kept on their movements. The emblem of the State is a tiger.

The population increased from 52,674 in 1891 to 60,432 in 1901; it is contained in 233 villages, and the density is 151 persons to the square mile. All but 179 of the inhabitants are Hindus. The most numerous castes are Chasâs (17,000) and Pâns (10,000). The population is classified as follows: Hindu—males, 29,857, females, 30,396, the total of Hindus forming 99·7 per cent. of the population: proportion of males in total Hindus is 49·5. Musalmâns:—males, 88, females, 90; the Musalmâns form only 0·29 per cent. of the population: proportion of males in total Musalmâns is 49·7. The percentage of literates to the total population is 2·1. Averages—the number of villages per square mile is 0·73; houses per village, 41·6; persons per village, 206; houses per square mile, 30; persons per house, 4·9. Many of the villages are large and prosperous, and the people are well-to-do cultivators, with the exception of the Pâns, who form a considerable number of the population; the majority of them are landless labourers and are the professional criminals of the State: endeavours are being made by the Chief to improve their status and to assist them to holdings of their own, giving advances for plough-bullocks and seed-grain.

The 293 villages in the State are classified as follows: 261 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 28 with from five hundred to a thousand, 3 with from one to two thousand, and 1 with from two to five thousand.

The State is mostly open country and well watered by the Brâhmâni, which forms the natural drainage channel: the climate is healthy and epidemics of fever and other diseases are not common. During the period from 1893 to 1902 the average

THE
PEOPLE.

PUBLIC
HEALTH.

ratio of births and deaths per thousand was 21 and 16 respectively. There is a charitable dispensary at headquarters, with a small indoor ward in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant and the number of patients treated in 1907-08 was 4,751. There is also an Ayurvedic dispensary at headquarters. Vaccination is not popular with the people, but receives attention from the State authorities. In 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 1,631 and revaccinations, 1,441.

AGRICULTURE.

The total acreage of the State is 255,360 acres, of which 176,359 acres are forest and 19,306 acres non-culturable waste. The normal cropped area is 42,930 acres, of which 27,084 acres are under rice: oil-seeds are normally sown on 3,780 acres, the principal oil-seed crops being *til* (sesamum) 1,588 acres, and castor, 1,217 acres. The land is well cultivated, the fields are carefully terraced and irrigated from tanks and embankments, which are a striking feature of the State. There is a State agricultural farm, where experiments in improved seeds and new varieties of crops are made, and seed is distributed to the more experienced cultivators.

**RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.**

The average rate per *mān* (two-thirds of an acre) for first second and third class rice-lands is Rs. 2-10-2, Re. 1-11-1 and Re. 0-15-11 respectively, and for uplands, Re. 0-10-5. During the period from 1893 to 1902 the rate of wages for skilled labour has remained stationary, but that of ordinary labour has increased slightly: the average daily rate of wage during this period is as follows:—Superior mason, 6 annas, common mason, common blacksmith, and common carpenter 4 annas each, superior carpenter and superior blacksmith, 8 annas each, cooly, 1½ annas. The average price during the same period of wheat, rice, gram and salt has been 8½ seers, 25½ seers, 14½ seers, and 10½ seers respectively.

**OCCUPA-
TIONS,
MANUFACTURES
AND
TRADE.**

There are no special manufactures or occupations. At the headquarters, however, an industrial school has been started by the Chief with a view to improving the ordinary village trades: at the school superior leather work, especially in boots and shoes, gold and silver ornamental work, and superior carpentry and smithy work are taught. A considerable export of surplus rice, food-grains, and oil-seeds is carried on down the Brāhmaṇī: a certain quantity of timber is floated down the river from the State of Pāl Laharā and sleepers are brought from Athmallik and similarly exported down to Jenāpur railway station on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway. The principal imported articles are spices, salt, piece-goods, cloths and kerosine oil. The village of Talcher is an important mart.

There are good roads connecting the headquarters with Angul and Pál Laharā, and there are rest-houses along the roads. The Brāhmanī affords a ready means for transport. There is an imperial post-office at the headquarters.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

The State for some time was, owing to the minority of the present Chief, under the administration of Government : during that period a careful settlement was made for a period of fifteen years from 1897-98 to 1911-12. There are four dates (*kists*) for payment of revenue, viz., February, May, July and December, and at each *kist* one-fourth of the revenue is payable and the land revenue demand is collected without difficulty. The system of land tenures is the same as in the other States, the *sarbarāhhkāre* receiving a cash commission on collections and being responsible for the rent collections : no certificates are issued until and unless the *sarbarāhhkār* has first paid in the total amount due from his village. No cesses are levied, and there are no zamindāris in the State : the maintenance allowances to members of the Chief's family are known as *khanjā* grants. The current land revenue demand amounted to Rs. 36,461 in 1907-08.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the *sawad* of 1894, which was revised in 1908. The Chief administers the State himself, and is assisted by his uncle, who exercises the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. The State pays to the British Government an annual tribute of Rs. 1,040 and has an estimated revenue of Rs. 65,000. There is a regular Forest Department, and every effort has been made to protect and reserve the forests, which have been demarcated : the cutting of fire-lines remains to be done. In former years the forests had been recklessly denuded of good timber, and it will be several years before the forests can recover. In the year 1907-08 the forest revenue yielded Rs. 3,770. The excise revenue of the State amounted in 1907-08 to Rs. 3,994. Opium and *ganja* are obtained in the usual manner. The people are not litigious, and in 1907-08 the number of civil suits was only 250, of which 88 per cent. were for sums below the value of Rs. 50. Crime is fairly heavy for the area and population of the State, but mostly consists of theft and burglary cases : a good deal of the crime is attributed to the Pāns. The number of cases reported to the police was 399 in 1907-08. The police consists of 2 Sub-Inspectors, 8 Head-Constables and 45 constables, besides 242 *chaukidārs* (village watchmen). There is a masonry jail at the headquarters with accommodation for 70 prisoners : a new jail is under construction. In 1907-08 the daily average population was 43.

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.
Finances,

Forests.

Excise.

Justice.

Police.

Jail.

P. W. De- In 1907-08 the State spent Rs. 7,232 on account of public
partment. works.

EDUCA- The State maintains a Middle English school, 2 Upper
TION. Primary and 62 Lower Primary schools and one good Sanskrit
tol: besides there are one Government *guru*-training school and 4
private schools. The State receives a grant for primary educa-
tion from Government, and enjoys assistance from Government
Educational officers. The number of pupils on the roll in
1907-08 was 1,872. There is an excellent girls' school at head-
quarters.

CHAPTER XXIV.

TIGIRIA STATE.

THE State of Tigiriā lies between 20° 24' and 20° 32' N., and 85° 26' and 85° 35' E. It is the smallest of the Orissa States, having an area of only 46 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Dhenkānāl State; on the east by Athgarh State; on the south by the Mahānadi river; and on the west by the Barāmbā State. The country for the most part is open and level and well cultivated except among the small area of hills and forests to the north. The climate is healthy: no record exists of the rainfall, but it is approximately the same as that of the neighbouring State of Barāmbā. The Mahānadi flows along the entire length of the southern border. The headquarters of the State are at Tigiriā. PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

According to tradition the founder of this State, Nityānanda Tunga, and his younger brother are said to have come originally on a pilgrimage to Puri, where they remained in the hope of receiving some favour from the God. The elder brother was one day advised in a dream to hold the kingdom of Trigruhiyā to the west on the bank of the river Chitrotpalā in Puri by expelling its Chief who was an infidel. Nityānanda Tunga accordingly went there, and founded the State in the year 1246 A.D. It is alleged that the area of the State was gradually contracted by maintenance and dowry grants: the maintenance-holders eventually placing their grants within the jurisdiction of neighbouring Chiefs. HISTORY.

It is stated that the Chief of Tigiriā assisted the Marāthā *Sūbahdār*, Chimnaji, against the Chief of Dhenkānāl. In recognition of this good service the Marāthās are said to have granted to Rājā Sankarsan a *sanad* conferring on him the title of *Mahā-pātra* and declaring that the tribute then paid by him should remain unchanged. They further declared that the Rājā whenever he went on a journey should be accompanied by men and elephants with a black flag, drum, bugle, &c., and the Chief observes this custom to the present day. The Chief of Tigiriā assisted the Rājā of Orissa in defeating the rebellious Chief of Bānpur.

One of the Chiefs, Jagannāth Champati Singh, assisted the Rājā of Orissa against the Rājā of Domparā and was rewarded with the service of *Bara Parichhā* in the temple of Jagannāth at Puri, a privilege which the family enjoys in perpetuity. The name Tigiriā is apparently a corruption of *Tigiri* or "three hills": another derivation assigns the name of the State from the fact of its having consisted of three divisions defended by three forts (*tri garh*). Extensive domains were carved out of this State by neighbouring Chiefs in the time of the Marāthās. The Chief claims to be of the Kshattriya caste; his emblem of signature is the Five Weapons (*sastra pancha*).

THE
PEOPLE.

The population increased from 20,546 in 1891 to 22,625 in 1901; it is contained in 102 villages. Tigiriā, though the smallest, is the most densely peopled of the Orissa States, supporting a population of 492 to the square mile. Hindus number 22,184. The most numerous caste is the Ohasā (7,000); and next to them rank the Pāns (1,694). The total population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 10,971, females, 11,213, the Hindus thus form 98·05 per cent. of the population, proportion of males in total Hindus, 49·5 per cent.: Musalmāns—males, 218, females, 223, forming 1·9 per cent. of the population, proportion of males in total Musalmāns 49·4 per cent. There are no Christians in the State. The percentage of literates to the total population is 4·8. Averages—the number of villages per square mile, is 2·2; houses per village, 46·95; persons per village, 221; houses per square mile, 104; persons per house, 4·7. The 102 villages in the State are classified as follows:—94 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 5 with from five hundred to a thousand, 2 with from one to two thousand, and 1 with from two to five thousand. The people are well-to-do.

PUBLIC
HEALTH.

There is no charitable dispensary in the State and the people attend at the Government dispensary at Banki on the opposite bank of the Mahānadi to which the Chief makes a small subscription. There is, however, a medical hall at the headquarters for the supply of country medicines. Vaccination is carried on by licensed vaccinators trained at the Cuttack Medical School: vaccination is very backward, and in 1907-08 there were only 129 cases of primary vaccination and no case of revaccination.

AGRICUL-
TURE.

The State is highly cultivated and besides the usual coarse rice and grains, produces excellent crops of oil-seeds, sugarcane, tobacco and cotton: the State has, however, made no attempt to introduce improved seed grain or new varieties of crops.

RENTS,
WAGES,
AND
TAXES.

Rents are very low as compared with those prevailing in the neighbourhood. The average rate per acre for first, second